

The Friends' Quarterly

Newsletter of the Enfield Shaker Museum

2012 marks the Museum's 25th anniversary.

Thank you to all our dedicated supporters.

Mardy High, President



Winter/Spring 2012

Upcoming Events

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

April 21 Shaker Sisters Slumber Party

May 4 – 6 Shaker Forum

RESCHEDULED to September 7 - 9

May 11 – 13 Quilt Camp – Dog River Quilter

May 12 & 13 Museum Benefit Yard Sale

May 20 Art & Garden Festival (See page 5)

May 25 – 26 Educational Docent Training

June 17 – July 14 Chosen Vale Trumpet
and Percussion Seminar

July 4 Patriotic Sing-a-long

August 18 Dragonfly Ball

**Be part of the Dragonfly Ball Team
Volunteer today!**

Email events@shakermuseum.org

Shaker Gardening in 1840

By Galen Beale

The North Family Shakers raised this year, from one seed, 28 pumpkins, weighing 800 lbs, two in the lot weighing 96 lbs and 72 lbs.¹

One of the most interesting garden manuscripts written by an Enfield Shaker is Seth Bradford's horticultural journal written during his years as manager of the Church Family's vegetable garden. Seth Bradford came to the Shakers with his family in 1834 as one of ten children of Thomas and Electra Bradford. He was ten years old when he arrived and, like many other young men, he spent much of his time in the garden under the supervision of Lyman Allard. Bradford begins his record of daily life in the garden in 1834, and the journal follows him as he takes over as garden manager from Allard in 1844. The diary continues until 1849, shortly before Bradford left the community. Bradford's responsibilities included managing the work of 13 to 14 young men and running the Shaker's large and profitable seed business.¹

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President's Update – Gardens Now - Education – Our Gift Shop



New Museum Board Members

From left to right: Joseph Gasparik, June Hemberger, Emily Rowe, Rachel Silver and Karen Walk

One of the purposes of an annual meeting is to recognize outgoing Board Trustees and introduce new ones.

Outgoing Board Trustees that were recognized at our recent Annual Meeting were Donna Butler and Carolyn Maloney. Donna has been with the Museum for many years and is noted for her work to integrate the Mary Keane Chapel into the Museum site. She and her husband George were also instrumental in preserving the Cassavant organ for the chapel. Carolyn Maloney, who came to us from Hypertherm, Inc., was instrumental in developing new financial policies and procedures. Although Donna and

Carolyn will leave the board, they continue to be regular volunteers around the Museum. We are indebted to all they have done for us.

New Trustees nominated and voted on include Joseph Gasparik, June Hemberger, Emily Rowe, Rachel Silver and Karen Wolk.

June Hemberger, a long-time Upper Valley resident but a new resident in Enfield, has served on several local boards and worked as an Employee Relations Advisor and Practice Manager at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Her background is in business management. June has already jumped right in as acting Treasurer of the Board.

Emily Rowe lives in Corinth, VT and travels the furthest distance to the Museum to share her love for the Shakers. A history and museum studies major, she is a welcomed addition to our board. She is currently the Operations Coordinator at the Center for Northern Woodlands Education.

Karen Wolk lives in Canaan and is a retired social worker. She has been an active volunteer since retiring to the Upper Valley. She is very impressed with the Great Stone Dwelling and the Mary Keane Chapel and is looking forward to helping the Museum flourish. Karen has already volunteered on many Museum projects.



President's Update by Mardy High

Our Museum is 25 years old this year! In celebrating our 25th anniversary, we proudly acknowledge how much we owe to the vision and commitment of a core group in the 1980's, many of whom continued to guide the Museum through various phases, the latest of which was the Capital Campaign of 2006 through 2009.

This March, the final paint on the new rails of the Cupola marked completion of the last major project of that Campaign. We are very grateful to the Brundage Foundation for two gifts of \$6,000 that covered the final cost. Our sights are now on the Mary

Keane Chapel. We gratefully share the good news of an LCHIP grant for \$20,000 received in December of 2011, for important drainage improvements around its foundation. The grant will be matched in a dedicated campaign over the next two years.

As Board President, I talk to many people who have known and loved the Museum over these 25 years. Visitors who saw the Museum then, are delighted at what they see now. Though recently weathering some lean years, we still reach out with new family programs, dynamic exhibits,

an expanded Gift Shop, community gardens, hiking trails, and programs to bring visitors from near and far into the Museum.

This is also a year of new management by the Executive Committee and Interim Administrator, Dolores Struckhoff. This spring the Board of Trustees is launching a search for a new Executive Director.



Shaker Gardening in 1840

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Bradford's journal is an accurate record of how and what the Enfield Shakers were growing in their gardens during these years, as well as how these young men, the future of the community, were trained for upcoming leadership positions. The Enfield community was at its most prosperous time during these journal years, and the journal records how constant the work was for these young men, for in addition to their regular garden chores, they are seen raising buildings, helping with farming chores, such as haying and fruit collecting, and in the winter making brooms, baskets, barrels and measures.

Many of the young gardeners in Bradford's Journal were approaching the age of 21 and they would soon have to decide whether they would fully commit to becoming a Shaker or try their luck in the outside world. Seth Bradford's record of the arrivals and departures of his companions gives the reader an

intimate window into the lives of many of the Enfield Shaker's most promising young men.

The record of garden work in June 1840 is typical of this Journal:

1st Hoeing Onions and Potatoes and Lettuce. At work on the road.

2nd Hoeing our Popcorn in Horse Pasture.

3rd Rain from the South East. Finished setting Green Head Lettuce and Turks Island Lettuce.

4th Made a Gate for the South Side of the Garden and commenced a smaller one.

5th Planting Melons. Hoed our Onions in the North Garden. A rain last night.

6th Hoeing Onions. Set Curl Celsia Lettuce. Tying up seed Cabbage.

8th At work on the road. Hoeing Big Squash and Potatoes.

9th Hoed and weed the Square of Young Onions and Hoed Sage.

10th Began to hoe Cucumber plants. Early Cluster & Cluster.

11th Hoed Sweet Corn first time. Also

Hoed White spine Common and Long Yellow Cucumber plants. A fine growing time.

12th Hoeing Beets, Cabbage and Carrots 2nd time over.

13th Finished hoeing Cucumber plants 4th time.

15th Hoeing our seed onions, 3rd time, Hoeing and sowing over the carrots.

16th Shearing Sheep. Franklin sheared 5, the writer 4, Lorin 22, Chase 18.

After shearing sheep for the next two days, the gardeners "went a Strawberrying" on the 19th. By the 20th they were "Setting Cabbage plants, 326 Low Dutch, 162 Red, 425 Cromwell's, 244 French turnips plants. It was still only mid-June for the gardeners.

¹Enfield Advocate, October 14, 1887

²Bradford, Seth T., *A Diary or Memorandum Kept by Seth T. Bradford, born June 11, 1824 mostly While acting in the Horticulture Line of Employ it having Been 14 years and Leave that become Caretaker of Boys, copied and written November 1850. Original in the Dartmouth College Library, copy in the collection of the Enfield Shaker Museum.*

A Community Garden for All by Colin High



Spring brings new life and energy to our gardens at the Museum. Most of the last year's community gardeners will be returning, but we still have large and small plots available. The community gardens and our gardening workshops are open to anyone in the Upper Valley Community. That includes a warm welcome to summer people, too. For information or to reserve a plot for the new season, email Mardy High at mhigh22@gmail.com or stop in at the Museum and pick up a brochure. We will be offering free gardening workshops this spring as follows:

Saturday, April 21, *Gardening the Organic Way*; Sunday, May 6, *Composting and Soil Fertilization*; Saturday, June 2, *Weed and Disease Control*; Saturday, July 15, *Pest Control*; Saturday, August 4, *Dealing with Produce*. All Saturday workshops are 10:30 am to noon. Fall workshops to be announced.

If spring continues to be warm, we hope to open the community gardens on May 1st.

Shaker Heirloom Vegetable Garden

A new Shaker Heirloom Garden project this year will bring back more of the Enfield heirloom varieties of annual vegetables, flowers and fruit that the Shakers grew here in Enfield and at other Shaker Communities. This will compliment the collection of heirloom herbs and perennials that Happy Griffith started over twenty years ago, and continued by Betsy Drinkwater in the Production Garden. We have tracked down more than twenty varieties of annual vegetables that were grown by the Shakers. We are establishing a new section of the production garden for these. Later in the year, we will save seeds to provide for future years and help secure these varieties for the future. Two years ago, we planted six heirloom apple trees behind the GSD and this year we hope to plant four more near the Herb Garden.

Composting

With many more gardeners and so much more production in our gardens, we need to reorganize our composting. We will be shifting from an open pile system to large enclosed bins that

should provide hotter and better compost. We will need a lot of volunteers to help sort and move the existing compost piles to the new bins when they are ready.

Garden Shed

Good news! Thanks to a grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Foundation, we now have most of the money for the materials to build a new shed for the Community Garden, based on traditional Shaker design. It will be built this summer.

There will be lots of other activities this season. Come join in the fun!

Become a Volunteer

Join a unique group of individuals who support the Museum happenings all year round!

Volunteer at one of our events, in one of our programs, in our office, on outside site work, or as a Docent.

Become a Village Gardener and Learn from the Best



Established in 1987 the Herb Garden at the Enfield Shaker Museum is a defining example of the herbs, roses, and shrubs grown by the Shakers during the time they lived by the shores of Mascoma Lake between 1793 and 1925.

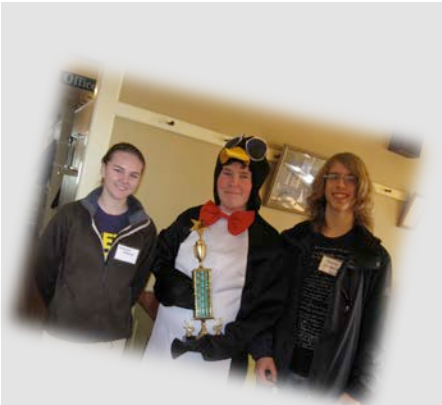
The extensive garden consists of twelve beds each forty feet long and five feet wide. These beds are planted and divided by their use and consist of over one hundred different herbs, shrubs and roses the Shakers grew. They are culinary, medicinal, dye, fragrant, everlasting, roses, and shrubs.

There is also a Production garden where vegetables are grown and sold during the

season. **Betsy Drinkwater**, Master Gardener, is in charge of this garden.

This year Herbalist, **Happy Griffiths** will again be running the herb garden and is looking for volunteers to help maintain the garden, which is open to the public from May to the middle of October.

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1st Annual Snowshoe-a-thon

By Nan Munsey

"I never realized that the view from the top field was so spectacular!"

"How could I quit when my three year old kept marching on ahead of me?"

These were just a couple of the voices heard along the 2.5 miles of Shaker trails at the 1st annual Shaker Snowshoe-a-thon held on Saturday, February 11. Participants enjoyed the horse-drawn wagon ride from the Great Stone Dwelling to the Stone Mill where volunteers helped them fit loaner snowshoes before heading up the hill.

After the trek, all were welcomed in the dining room with hot soup, chili, and good conversation. Awards were given for the school with the highest participation and teams raising the most money. Thanks to participants and generous donors we raised over \$3,000 for educational programming at the Museum! Missed it? Circle Saturday, January 26, 2013 on your calendar. See you there!

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Village Gardener's will work two to three hours a week during the season.

All phases of gardening will be covered: how to prepare beds for planting, when to plant, the growth habits of the herbs, how they are used, when to harvest, and finally how to put the garden to bed.

To add to your education, five to six times during the summer, Happy will give in depth classes on one of the beds, i.e. culinary, medicinal, etc. At the end of the season, a potluck dinner will be enjoyed by all!

The cost of this popular program is the price of the Museum's membership.

Anyone interested in becoming a Village Gardener, please contact the Museum by calling (603) 632-4346 or email us at info@shakermuseum.org.

Museum's Wish List

6' Plastic Tables
Electric Pencil Sharpener
Dishwashing Detergent
New File Folders
Postage Stamps
Shop Vac
Stove Mitts
Tool Kit

For more information contact info@shakermuseum.org

Education Programs

Sunday, May 20 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.
Art and Garden Festival

Need organic herbs, flowers, and vegetable plants for your garden? Want to learn how to start seeds, create a small container garden, begin composting, grow rosemary, or prune that apple tree in your yard?

Here's your chance to purchase plants and hear talks by the Valley's experts on these subjects. And there's more! Herb garden tours, Community Garden plot sign up, homemade ice cream, tea and cookies, and music.

Kids will enjoy designing and filling a Shaker seed packet, planting a pot of flowers, and making plant markers to take home.

Meet us in the Shaker Gardens for a breath of spring and a chance to get to know Upper Valley artists who will be painting and selling their work in the garden.

New Family Tours

Bring your family and learn about children's life in the Shaker community. Begin with a hands-on workshop and then tour the Museum observing the exhibits through the eyes of children. Offered twice daily on Saturdays.

On your own - Bring a picnic lunch and climb up Mt. Assurance for spectacular views of the Mascoma Valley.

The Museum Gift Shop

By Kate Mortimer, Store Associate

What is a lucet? Find out in our Gift Shop! Young girls were taught to produce a tightly woven cord for trim or button loops using a lucet. Our lucets may be purchased as “toys” although several adults have purchased them recently.

Our new line of traditional toys will intrigue children of all ages. Choose between a “Handkerchief Doll” or a “Penny Wooden Doll” used to keep children quiet during Meeting or Sunday services.

One of our goals in the Gift Shop is to stock items made locally. Recently, we contracted with Thomas Franklin, a local potter who is designing a new mug with the Great Stone Dwelling logo on it.

Another new item with the Great Stone Dwelling logo on it, is a new cross-stitch kit. And, for the gardeners, we have added more of our sought after Shaker Hats!

Stop in to see us soon. Even if you are not interested in a lucet, I would love to show you around and explain how the Enfield Shakers used the Gift Shop rooms in their daily life.



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