

The Friends' Quarterly

Newsletter of the Enfield Shaker Museum

Sharing history and hospitality.



Vol. XXIX No. 1

Winter 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

February 9 **Snowshoe Festival**

February 24 **Herbal Soap Making
Workshop**

March 24 **Dried Herbal Wreath
Making Workshop**

April 16 **Candle Making
Workshop**

April 26-28 **Spring Shaker Forum**

A Fraught and Perilous Journey

Winter Travel for the New Hampshire Shaker Ministry, 1792-1804

by Kyle Sandler, Education Program Coordinator

A familiar sight to all New Hampshire residents is waking up on a cold winter morning to discover that the roads are completely covered with snow. In the twenty-first century, Americans have the option of all-wheel drive vehicles and snow tires, but how did late-eighteenth century New Englanders travel in the dead of winter?

During this period, most Americans avoided the dangers of winter travel by not travelling at all. One group that did not have this luxury were the Elders and Eldresses who comprised the Shaker Ministry. For this small group of individuals, braving extreme weather and terrible roads was part of the responsibility of overseeing the various Bishoprics that made up the wider Shaker world. To provide this oversight, Shaker leaders were required to travel long distances, year-round, in order to keep lines of communication open. Examples of the extent of this travel can be found in primary source documents such as the "Canterbury Current Record of Events, 1792 to 1885" which describes how in 1796, "Father Job [Bishop]...travelled 1900 miles, Mother Hannah and Sister Molly Bennick 1660 miles."



"Shakers at Lebanon Enjoying a Sleigh Ride" - Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 1873

Most challenging for the Elders and Eldresses of the Ministry would have been travel during the winter months. This would have been acutely felt in the more northern bishoprics such as New Hampshire where they regularly travelled the forty-five miles between Canterbury and Enfield. Additionally, the Ministry often completed at least one annual winter trip to the Lead Ministry at New Lebanon, New York. One of these annual journeys was undertaken in January of 1795 when the New Hampshire Ministry travelled to New Lebanon via the Enfield, NH Shaker community.

To make these winter journeys, the New Hampshire Ministry had a limited number of options available to them. First among these was travel on horseback, considered the safest and most reliable form of year-round transportation on the rough roads of the rural northeast. Despite the prevalence of horseback riding, carriages and sleighs offered alternative options for travel. When the New Lebanon Ministry, including Father Joseph Meacham and Mother Lucy Wright, arrived at Canterbury in May of 1793, they had used a brand-new wagon to complete the roughly one hundred and seventy mile journey.

Once there was enough snow on the ground, sleighs provided a winter alternative for travel. Beginning in 1793, the New Hampshire Ministry used sleighs for several long-distance trips, including one to New Lebanon in December of that year. Over the next few years, they would continue to rely on sleighs for some of their winter

Continued on page 2.

A publication of the Enfield Shaker Museum

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Enfield Shaker Museum Hires Phil Walz as Executive Director



On November 1st, we welcomed Phil Walz as our new Executive Director (E.D.). Phil has worked in non-profit leadership positions in the arts, culture, and capital development in Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Previously, he has served in similar roles for: Central PA Festival of the Arts, GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, Greater Akron Musical Association, and N.H. Music Festival. Raised on a small gentleman's farm in Hopkinton, he was exposed to practical lessons in animal husbandry (he had an egg route), general gardening practices, canning and freezing vegetables and fruit crops, cold storage practices, maple sugaring, woodlot management, etc. Animals on the farm at various times included: sheep, chickens, pigs, ponies, one heifer, and one goose which the red fox enjoyed.

Question: Why did you decide to accept the position at Enfield Shaker Museum? Walz: *"When I visited the Museum anonymously last August, I was stunned by the beauty of the Museum's physical site, the story of how the property had been rescued bit by bit over the past 3+ decades by members of the community, and the demonstrated passion for historical restoration throughout the campus. Coming out of this unstructured visit, I was very excited by the opportunities presented. Here was a passionate community of Trustees, donors, members, volunteers, and friends devoted to Enfield Shaker history. I accepted the Board of Trustees' offer to serve as E.D. because I felt that I could make a difference in their efforts."*

Question: What are your plans for the future? Walz: *"To work collaboratively and enthusiastically with the Chosen Vale Board of Trustees and staff, our community of donors, members, volunteers, and friends, community partners, and the Town of Enfield, in working to successfully grow the impact of our stated mission and, in the process, make life better for the Enfield Shaker Museum and our beneficiaries."*

Question: What is your most recent favorite Enfield Shaker experience? *"Singing as part of the Enfield Shaker Singers Community Sing led by pre-eminent Shaker scholar Mary Ann Haagen in the Enfield Shaker Meeting Room while winter winds howled outside on January 6th. It was a wonderful way to lift the spirits and celebrate the holidays and the New Year."*

A Fraught and Perilous Journey - Continued from Pg. 1
travel, including a seven-day trip to Enfield in January of 1795. Despite the advantages, sleigh travel was vulnerable to winter weather which could completely block roads and leave travelers stranded with little shelter. Even the forty-five-mile trip from Canterbury to Enfield was often too dangerous to use the sleighs owned by both communities. Instead, the Ministry was often forced to make the journey on horseback.

Overall, the distances the Ministry travelled in the 1790's and the transportation methods available to them demon-

strate the challenges faced by early Shaker leaders, both men and women. During the first few decades of the 19th century, travel conditions slowly began to improve as states formalized their road systems. In New Hampshire, the opening of the Fourth Turnpike in 1805 reduced many of the challenges faced by Shakers travelling between Enfield and Canterbury. Additionally, improvements in the postal system alleviated some of the need for winter travel. Despite this, members of the Shaker Ministry continued the tradition of long-distance travel even into the early years of the twentieth century.

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

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. Gifts and donations are tax-deductible.

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Michael O'Connor

Development Assistant

Kathryn Jerome

Education Program Coordinator

Kyle Sandler

Events Coordinator

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SAVE-THE-DATE

2019 Spring Shaker Forum April 26 - 28, 2019

Weekend Highlights Include:

Friday Evening - "Kentucky Shaker Furniture: A Southerner's Interpretation of the Rules" by Tommy Hines, Director of South Union Shaker Village, Auburn, KY.

Saturday Afternoon - A visit to the Feast Ground on Mt. Assurance.

Saturday Evening - "Twenty Years of Shaker Paint Research: Mysteries and Discoveries" by Susan L. Buck, a conservator in private practice specializing in the analysis and conservation of painted surfaces on wooden objects and architectural materials.

Preservation Updates



*West Meadow Barn - Top left to right - West End and South Side - Before, During, and After removal of faux-brick siding.
Bottom left to right - East End - Before and After*

West Meadow Barn Restoration Begins

Thanks to a generous grant from **The Lucy and Eleanor S. Upton Charitable Foundation** the faux brick siding on the West Meadow Barn has been completely removed in preparation for the restoration of the barn.

The West Meadow Barn was built by the Enfield Shakers in 1856. We do not have any records that tell us the original purpose of this barn but some very careful evaluation of the structure seems to indicate that it was built as a one-story barn with the addition of a second level occurring some time in its early history.

Removing the siding has allowed us to see the exact placement of the original windows and doors. Using historic photographs and architectural evidence we are planning to restore the barn for use as educational and performance space.

Work on Brethren's Shops

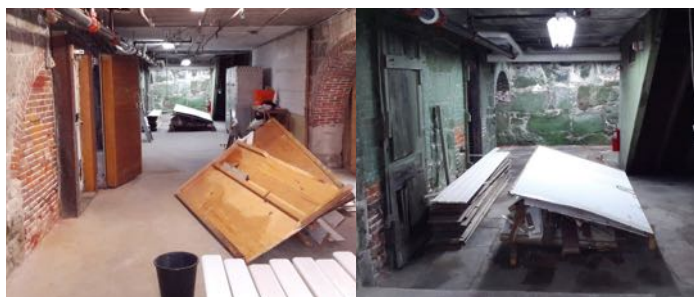


Thanks to a generous grant from **Mascoma Bank** the outdated electrical panels in the Brethren's West Shop and Brethren's East Shop have been replaced and the buildings are now ready to be rewired.

In addition, our resident timber framer **Tim Baker** has been working to replace the rotted sill in the Brethren's West Shop. Once this work is completed, we will be able to jack the building up and work on straightening the stone foundation which after years of frost and thaw is in need of some major rework.

Great Stone Dwelling Cellar Gets A New/Old Look

Next time you are in Enfield be sure to go down into the basement of the Great Stone Dwelling. Thanks to weeks of careful planning and hard work the main hallway of the cellar has been opened up again, the "spider web" of wiring has been removed and new lighting has been installed. There is still work to be done on the ceiling and walls but for the first time in years this magnificent space is beginning to look like it did when the Shakers were here. Special thanks to **Paul Waehler, Lynn Waehler, Dick Dabrowski, Tim Baker and MG Electric** for all of their hard work to bring this project along.



Highlights from a Busy Fall at Enfield Shaker Museum



2018 Harvest Festival - Candlemaking and Spinning

The Enfield Shaker Museum's **2018 Harvest Festival**, held on September 15, was a successful and enjoyable family event which featured craft activities and demonstrations, horse drawn wagon rides, live music, great food, and more. New this year and a huge hit were the chick incubation demonstration and the live adult chickens. Over the course of the day, the Museum hosted more than 400 attendees of all ages. The success of this year's event would not have been possible without the support of our dedicated volunteers and staff. As our longest standing event, it makes us proud that the Harvest Festival continues to appeal, year after year, to a new and growing audience.



2018 Cider and Cheese Festival - Hard Cider Tasting and Cheese Tasting

Our third annual **Cider and Cheese Festival** brought over 800 fans of craft beverages and artisan cheeses to the Stone Mill yard to taste local treats, try their hand at an antique cider press, shop our local 'pop up farmers and craft market', and enjoy live bluegrass on a festive Fall day at the Museum! Many attendees here for the Cider Festival also took a tour of the Great Stone Dwelling, included in the festival admission. Thanks to the efforts of our fabulous volunteers, this "up and coming" Museum event continues to reach new and different audiences, and we are looking forward to an even bigger festival in 2019 – Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 13th, 2019!



The **Holiday Cookie Fair** on December 9 was definitely a success! Thanks to the generosity and talent of bakers from all over the Upper Valley, we took in over 65 pounds of homemade cookies—which we sold out of in 3 hours! A huge thank you to everyone who baked or bought cookies, and especially to our volunteers who helped worked the event. This event would not have been nearly as sweet without your support!



The **2018 Festival of Trees** featured local businesses, artists and individuals' creatively themed and decorated tabletop trees, allowing us to raise money for the Museum's operations by raffling off holiday cheer in the shape of tabletop Christmas trees. This year's lot featured hand-knit mini-hats, trees loaded with candy, pet-themed trees and even a Marvel comics tree! Our silent auction "artist trees" included an Angel Tree created by **Meredith Smith**, hand-decorated pretzel rods made by **Shirley Green**, and a hand carved "Fishing Santa" by **Barbara McAllister**. If you have not participated before, email events@shakermuseum.org with contact information and next year we will give you a tree to decorate, and return to the Museum to be raffled off as part of the Festival of Trees 2019!



On August 22nd we held the **2018 Volunteer Appreciation Potluck**. In addition to enjoying some great food and wonderful company we were able to celebrate the many contributions our volunteers make to the success of Enfield Shaker Museum! The group included Board members, village gardeners, event volunteers, committee members, staff members, and more!

2018-2019 Annual Appeal

As of January 23rd, more than 100 contributors to Enfield Shaker Museum's 2018-2019 Annual Appeal have helped raise over \$65,000. Donations to the Annual Appeal are used to improve Museum operations and the programs we offer our visitors. On average, donations to the Annual Appeal, including grants, make up around 18% of the Museum's yearly budget.

Our most sincere thank you to all of our contributors--we could not do what we do without you! Your gift ensures that we will be able to continue our work into the future. If you have not yet made a contribution to this year's Annual Appeal, it is not too late! Donations can be made online at shakermuseum.org/donate-online.htm, or by phone at (603) 632-4346. We are also happy to accept checks or credit cards by mail.

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ESM Welcomes New Development Assistant Kathryn Jerome

Born and raised in NH, I received my Bachelor's degree in Anthropology, with minors in Arabic and Linguistics, from the University of Oklahoma. I have worked in database and information management in areas ranging from archaeological artifact cataloging to marketing, but I keep returning to history and my passion for sharing it with the public. After braving the tornados in Oklahoma, I am thrilled to come back to NH and join the team at ESM. Working at the Museum, I most enjoy the variety that each day brings—I'm always meeting new people and doing new things! I'm proud of helping take steps forward to improve ESM's membership and donation processes, and communication with the public. Here's to taking even more steps forward in 2019!



Welcome to Our New Board Members



Nan Munsey

Nan Munsey first served on the ESM Board from 2008-2014 with specific responsibilities for helping develop educational programs and garden outreach. She has also worked on the North Country Community Theatre, Lebanon Opera House, and Friends of Mascoma School Boards. A veteran middle school teacher in Lebanon and Mascoma schools, she retired in 2008 after receiving the Air Force Teacher of the Year award for her work with the NASA Explorer Schools program. She has been an active volunteer with the Museum, helping run festivals and educational programs as well as gardening with the Village Gardeners.



Greg Schwarz

Greg moved to the Upper Valley in 1973, and began a lifelong career in museum work. He started out in Hanover at the Dartmouth College Hood Museum of Art. He served as an Assistant Curator and Registrar. From 1988 to 1992, he was Executive Director of the Woodstock Historical Society and the Dana House Museum in Woodstock, VT. In 2017, he retired from 25 years with the National Park Service at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, NH. Greg served on the ESM Board from 1987-1993. He was particularly interested in the Holy Feast Ground and did extensive research on this subject.

Recent Acquisitions



A beautiful red five-drawer dresser has found its way back home to Enfield recently via a generous donor! Our first look leads us to believe that this is an early Enfield piece, with many of the surfaces showing evidence of hand-planed tool marks. The top edges of the drawers show linear faceting, as if rounded with a hand plane. Other interesting features include the

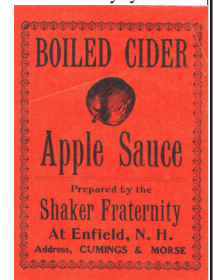
chest's boot-jack style feet and the fact that only the tops and sides of the drawer fronts are molded with a typical quarter round thumbnail profile: unusually, the bottom edges of the drawer fronts were left unmoulded.



This firkin (a lidded pail which is wider at its bottom than at its top) has a label attached to the top of the lid that identifies the contents as Boiled Cider Apple Sauce, produced by the Enfield Shakers. Also shown is an unused version of the same label that has been in the Museum's collection for many years.

Applesauce was produced by the Enfield Shakers for many years in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and - in fact - was one of their best-known products.

Despite the great quantities of applesauce made and sold by Enfield, this is the first firkin with an intact label we have encountered, making it a rare and special artifact!

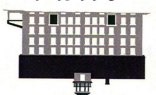


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