

# The Friends' Quarterly

## Newsletter of the Enfield Shaker Museum

Sharing history and hospitality



Vol. XXX No. 1

Winter 2020

### UPCOMING EVENTS

For more details, visit our website  
at [shakermuseum.org](http://shakermuseum.org)

Mar 19 **Herbal Wreath Making**  
Mar 28 **Orchard Care & Pruning**

Apr 7 **Herbal Soap Making**  
Apr 22 **Herbal Jelly Making**  
Apr 24-26 **Spring Shaker Forum**

May 2 **Enfield Shaker Day**  
May 9 **Opening the Garden**  
May 18-29 **Archaeological Field School**

Jun 2 **Tuesday Tour: Shaker Attics**  
Jun 13 **Introduction to Beekeeping**  
Jun 16 **Tuesday Tour: The Shakers and 18th & 19th Century American Life**  
Jun 30 **Tuesday Tour: Shaker Basements**

A publication of Enfield Shaker Museum  
Enfield, NH 03748  
603-632-4346  
[shakermuseum.org](http://shakermuseum.org)  
[info@shakermuseum.org](mailto:info@shakermuseum.org)

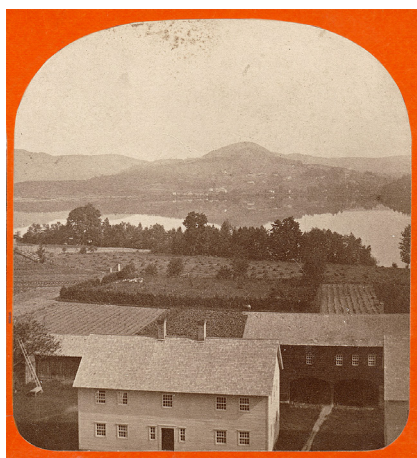
## The Enfield Shakers and Telephones

by Dan Pontbriand

What was daily life like for the Shakers? Hosted by the Enfield Shaker Museum in close partnership with Plymouth State College and under the direction of Dr. David Starbuck, teams of students and volunteers have been digging at various sites around the historic village for the past five years. Some fascinating artifacts have surfaced, helping to tell researchers and historians how incredibly inventive and industrious the Shakers were.

The Shakers were well known for their practical designs and inventions. They were a major economic force in the Enfield area and key owners and developers of much of what made Enfield a prosperous and lively mid-19th century community. The Shakers have long been considered “early adopters” of new inventions or ideas.

During the 2019 dig season, the site that generated the most interest was the Boys' Shop, originally called the West Wood House. Constructed in 1823, this building likely served many functions over its lifetime. In 1833 it was renamed the North Wood House when it was moved to the spot where its foundation is currently located. The North Wood House appears in a stereoview image (shown at left) taken around 1890. A postcard image circa 1910 also shows the building, since converted



*North Wood House (dark building with two arched doorways) - Charles E. Lewis Stereoview c. 1890*

ed to the Boys' Shop and painted white. Although the exact date of its demolition is unknown, in a photo dated 1917 the building is gone.

The Boys' Shop had a partial basement, which much to our surprise and delight was filled with debris discarded during the demolition of this building and perhaps a few others. Near the bottom of the cellar (between 180 and 200 cm from the surface), digging teams found a rifle barrel, many bottles (some clearly used for medicine), ceramics and pottery fragments, dishware, bits of jewelry, building parts, and much more. Artifacts found in the deepest part of the cellar date to and seem to suggest a time frame of roughly

1890 to 1910, well within the bounds of Shaker occupation.

Near the cellar floor, four dry cell batteries and, most interestingly, two ceramic pot wet cell batteries were discovered, along with several small metal fragments assumed to be old telephone parts. Missing from the wet cell batteries are the larger glass jars that the ceramic pots would have rested in (although perhaps we will find them during the 2020 dig). The ceramic pots stood about 7 inches high and about 2 inches in diameter. The pots exhibit a stain line in the outer surface indicating the fluid

*Continued on page 2*

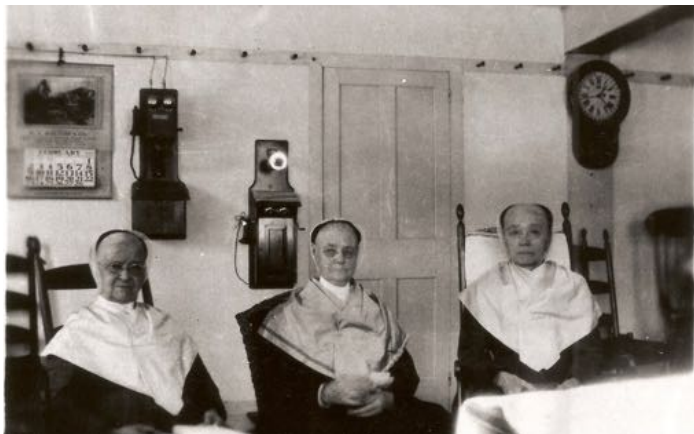
## The Enfield Shakers and Telephones - Continued from Pg. 1



*Wet cell battery ceramic pot found in Boys' Shop cellar during 2019 Archaeology Field School.*

level of sulfuric acid or ammonium chloride solution that surrounded and penetrated the porous pot. The bottom of the pot also exhibited a ¼-inch diameter hole. Inside the pot is a black, chunky substance resembling carbon--likely the remnants of the carbon rod collector, a substance which surrounded a negative pole zinc rod that acted as a cathode.

Batteries like these would have had a very specific purpose: powering telephones. This suggests that the Shakers had telephones well before 1902, and likely even before 1890. Additionally, the dry cell batteries found were nearly identical to batteries used in telephones during the early 1900s, when these devices became much more mainstream. The photo below of the interior of the Trustees' Office dated to 1913 clearly shows two telephones hanging on the wall.



*Enfield Shaker Sisters (l. to r.) Henrietta Spooner, Mary Basford, and Rosetta Cummings seated in the Trustees' Office c. 1913. Note the telephones on the wall behind them. Collection of Enfield Shaker Museum.*

The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell, and he received a patent on March 7, 1876. In 1877, The Bell Telephone Company was born. Ten years later there were over 100,000 telephones in service in the United States. Within communities, a series of telephones needed to be networked together to allow people to place calls to the doctor's office, fire station and police station, and to family, friends, and neighbors. To this purpose town-and community-owned telephone companies sprang up everywhere.

The first telephones arrived in the Enfield area as early as 1888, at which time several competing phone companies were selling phone service. The problem customers experienced with these new companies was lack of connectivity between them: if your neighbor had a different telephone company, you could not call them. The only solution to this was to have several phones in your home from different com-

panies. The Shakers were multiple telephone owners, likely for just this reason.

The two telephones shown in the photograph of the Trustees' office are both early models. The telephone on the right, with the bells in the middle of the cabinet, was built by Western Electric and called a "Fiddleback" or "Farmers Phone." Produced beginning in 1885, this telephone (Model No. 301A) featured wet cell batteries and was made of walnut, with a 5 Bar Red Magneto installed just above the batteries. (A "Fiddleback" telephone with two 1.5-volt dry cell batteries and a crank generator to ring the bell is on display at the New Hampshire Telephone Museum in Warner, NH.)



*Western Electric "Farmers Telephone" Model No. 301A. Shown here with battery case open.*

The telephone shown on the left of the photograph is a Western Electric "Two Box" Telephone (Model No. W070) that



*Western Electric "Two-Box" Model No. W070.*

was likely used as one of the aforementioned networked telephones through New England Telephone and Telegraph. This model did not have a battery, and was instead powered by electricity from wires running into the phone box. An *Enfield Advocate* article dated October 31, 1902, states that the Shakers were new subscribers to New England Telephone and Telegraph service, along with 11 other Enfield residents. This subscription would have included long distance service.

Telephones generally preceded electricity and electric lights in homes and businesses by many years. Ease and lower cost meant that it was easier and less expensive for phones to be wired into a house than electric lights. Correspondingly, there is no evidence that the Enfield Shakers--a community in decline--ever had electric lights installed in their dwelling houses or workshops. In contrast, the nearby town of Enfield had installed electric lights by 1898.

*Special thanks to the Plymouth State University Archaeology program and the New Hampshire Telephone Museum in Warner, NH for their assistance. Thanks to Michael O'Connor and Kyle Sandler for providing Shaker facts and photos and for their strong interest in the archaeology program.*

(Dan Pontbriand is a retired National Park Service Chief Ranger and volunteer Archaeological Field School digger at Enfield Shaker Museum.)



## A Message from ESM's Interim Executive Director

Some time back in the late twentieth century I enrolled in a course entitled "Communitarian Religious Movements" at Boston University. It would change my undergraduate career. Not only would I declare American Civilization as my major, I would take up and complete a minor in Religion in America. Later, I would complete a doctorate in American Civilization at the University of Pennsylvania, focusing on Americans' daily lives through their use of material and visual culture—the things we shape and the things that shape us. Since that time, I've taught at universities and worked in museums, employing that training and knowledge to bring to the public the richly varied American experience.



*Shirley Wajda examines the hem of Rosetta Cummings dress c. 1907.*

That I now work at the Enfield Shaker Museum may be attributed to fate, luck, or chance, but in some way I think the trajectory begins with visitors to that religion course at BU. On a fall afternoon I walked up the well-trod steps in the School of Theology to meet two diminutive women: Eldress Bertha Lindsay and Sister Gertrude Soule, both from Canterbury Shaker Village. For two hours students listened attentively as each woman related her life story and beliefs. Students' questions ranged widely; I recall a question about their starched white caps (from Belgium) and another about the future of Shakerism. Eldress Bertha Lindsay sighed when she replied, saying that individuals do ask to join but they haven't the commitment necessary to take up the faith. Hers was not a sign of resignation, however, but rather of resolve. The history of the American nation isn't all that long and the history of Shakers in America is still being made. I count myself lucky—and prepared—to help preserve and interpret, through artifacts, buildings, and landscapes, how Shakers viewed and lived their lives on the shore of Mascoma Lake. With an energetic staff, enthusiastic volunteers, and a dedicated board, we're spending this winter season rethinking the Museum's interpretation. Please feel free to offer your ideas!

The Board of Trustees of Enfield Shaker Museum is pleased to announce that Shirley Wajda, Ph.D. has been hired as our Interim Executive Director. Dr. Wajda brings a wealth of experience to her new position, with 30+ years of experience at museums, universities, and state humanities councils. Her areas of expertise include historical research, collections curatorship and management, exhibition research and creation, and project team and staff management. Please join us in welcoming Shirley to the Enfield Shaker Museum family.

## ESM To Be Featured in New Hampshire Archeological Publication

By Dr. David Starbuck, Plymouth State University, Professor of Archeology

*The New Hampshire Archeologist* is the annual publication of the New Hampshire Archeological Society, and Vol. 59, No. 1, is a very special issue devoted exclusively to Enfield Shaker Village and some of the archaeology that has been conducted here over the past several years. The journal is being printed all in color—it will be beautiful!—and it is in the print shop right now being printed and bound. It should be available by the end of February 2020. The Table of Contents is as follows:

### *Preface*

By Carolyn Smith, Board of Trustees, ESM

*Communal Infrastructure and the Development of Enfield Shaker Material Culture: The Enfield, NH, Shakers and How their Material Culture Informs our Understanding of a Community*

By Kyle Sandler, Education Program Coordinator, ESM

*Recent Archeology at Enfield Shaker Village*

By David R. Starbuck, Plymouth State University

*A Comparative Analysis of Shaker Consumption Practices*

By Amber Woods, Plymouth State University and University of New Hampshire

*The Enfield Shakers: Underwater Archeology and Telephones*

By Dan Pontbriand, retired, National Park Service



The proposed cover of this all-Enfield volume of the journal is shown to the left.

Copies of this wonderful new publication will be available in the Gift Shop of Enfield Shaker Museum and also through the New Hampshire Archeological Society for \$20.00 apiece.

## COME DIG WITH US THIS SUMMER!

**Enfield Shaker Museum and  
Plymouth State University  
Archeological Field School**

**May 18 - May 29, 2020**

Contact Kyle Sandler for details  
education@shakermuseum.org or 603-632-4346

## 2019 Fall Auction and Giving Gala

By Kathryn Jerome, Development Assistant

Our 2019 Fall Auction and Giving Gala, hosted on November 14th, 2019, from 6 – 9 PM, was a roaring success! Almost 100 attendees enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres and drink and helped us raise over \$30,000 at this lively fundraiser. Major attractions included not only the Live and Silent Auction portions of the night (featuring over 100 auction items donated by local businesses and individuals), but also a number of other games, including a Wine Cork Pull, Board Bingo, a Blitz Raffle, and raffles for a cash prize of \$500 and a Mount Lebanon No. 7 Shaker Rocker!



The Museum would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated to the Auction, and to everyone who came out and helped make the night a record breaker for the Museum!

Additionally, special thanks to our sponsors—**Bank of America, Mascoma Bank, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust** and **Ziggy's Pizza**—to our terrific Auctioneers, **Janet and Phil Warren**, and to our unflaggingly enthusiastic Auction Committee: **Shirley Green, Mary Ann Haagen, Kathryn Jerome, Carolyn Maloney, Ed McLaughlin, Nan Munsey, and Carolyn Smith**, who spent so much time and energy securing Auction donations and helping us put on this fabulous event!

This coming year's Fall Auction and Giving Gala has been set for November 12th, 2020. We have even bigger plans in store for 2020—come on out and join the fun!

## Cause Within A Cause Raises Money for Laundry Building Window Restoration

One of the best features of the Fall Auction and Giving Gala is the "Cause Within A Cause" Live Auction item. This year's cause was the restoration of the twelve windows in the west gable end of the 1813 Laundry Building. The windows, all in serious need of restoration, were auctioned off at \$1000 apiece. Our thanks to some very generous donors, we raised the needed money in seven and a half minutes!!! Our sincere appreciation to the following supporters of this important cause: **Bob and Tricia Barr, Charlie DePuy and Mary Ann Haagen, Harrison and Betsy Drinkwater, Austin & Betty Ann Kovacs, Mardee Laumann, Terri and Bud Lynch, David and Peggy Mitchell, Nan and Ken Munsey, Carolyn Smith and Richard Dabrowski, Doug and Meredith Smith, Bruce and Betsy Stefany, Michael and Susan Thomas, Ardis Vaughan, Chris and Ann Wadsworth, Paul and Lynn Waehler, and Carol Williams.**

On December 18, 2019, David Lewis of Boxwood Restoration arrived to remove the Laundry windows and begin the restoration process. Missing and broken panes of glass will be replaced with reproduction cylinder glass and reglazed, the wooden sash will be repaired as needed, and the windows will be repainted. The plan is to have the restored windows reinstalled by the end of April 2020. We will keep you posted on his progress.



1813 Church Family Laundry Building - west gable end. (left to right) (1) Taken from the belfry of the Great Stone Dwelling circa 1890. (2) Taken from the belfry of the Great Stone Dwelling 2018. (3) Taken from the veranda of the Great Stone Dwelling showing the installation of plywood fillers December 2019.



## Improvements in ESM Collections Storage

by Michael O'Connor, Curator

Museums hold themselves to a very high standard of care when it comes to the objects in their collections. One very important aspect of that care, but not often seen by the public, is the storage of artifacts. The evolution of storage at the Museum is an ongoing process, especially with a collection growing as quickly as ours. Over the last year several storage-related projects have been completed, with more scheduled for the winter and spring. The Museum installed 16 linear feet of 3-foot-deep shelving for the storage of chairs in the Great Stone Dwelling. Powder-coated NSF wire shelving with archival acrylic shelf lining was used, resulting in a much greater density of storage than previously available. Additionally, in the Curatorial offices two other projects have recently been completed. Shaker Workshops-donated sturdy steel warehouse shelving and ten 3' long by 18" wide sections have been installed in the office storage space. With six shelves per unit, this is 180 linear feet of much-needed storage. Adjacent to that new shelving, 90 linear feet of donated library shelving has been installed and we are in the process of cataloging and moving the museum's reference library on to those shelves.

Another large shelving project is underway in the Laundry Building. In the third-floor storage area another 30 units of the Shaker Workshops donated shelving units are being installed, yielding 450 linear feet of storage. One third of this replaces wood shelves with archival powder-coated steel shelves, and while the other two thirds constitute entirely new storage space. These new shelves are especially timely, as the museum will soon transport approximately 120 boxes of cataloged artifacts from recent archaeological digs, processed in the Archaeology Lab at Plymouth State University.

Thanks to volunteers **Dick Dabrowski, Ed Hayman, Michael Thomas, Chris Wadsworth, Lynn Waehler, and Paul Waehler** for their help installing the shelving in both the Great Stone Dwelling and the Laundry Building. Museum storage practices are always evolving, but these new shelving projects will help us improve and refine the storage of current artifacts and provide room to grow for the foreseeable future.



*Collection storage projects (l. to r.)  
Chair storage shelving  
Steel general collection storage shelving  
Library shelving*

---

## 2019 OSHER Course: Shaker Lives: From Kentucky to Maine

By Kyle Sandler, Education Program Coordinator

In 1774, a small band of religious dissidents known as the United Society of Believers in Christ's Appearing arrived in New York after a difficult voyage from England. Known as the Shakers, they brought with them a unique approach to Protestant Christianity based on the core tenets of celibacy, confession, and communal ownership of goods. Over the next half century, the Shaker Society grew from a small group of English immigrants to an order of over four thousand people living in major communities from Maine to Kentucky.

Who were the Shakers? What were their unique religious beliefs and practices? How did their spiritual perspectives inform their lifestyle, inventions, agricultural practices, and industries?

Over a period of six weeks, I explored the answers to these questions through the lives of individual Shakers with the

course's eleven participants. During each class we focused on a different era of Shaker history, beginning in 1747 with the founding of the Wardley Society. We also explored overarching themes such as communalism, religion, material culture, industry, and agriculture.

In order to explore these topics in depth participants used primary source materials, including the introduction to Benjamin Seth Youngs' *The Testimony of Christ's Second Appearing*, Hervey Elkins' *Fifteen Years in the Senior Order of the Shakers*, Eldress Nancy Moore's Civil War diary, and Issachar Bates' *Autobiography*. Participants also explored the Museum's buildings and grounds, using them as a living classroom. At the end of the six weeks participants had gained a solid foundation on Shaker history and culture. The reviews for this class were positive, and I hope to offer more courses in the future.

## 2020 Spring Shaker Forum

Friday - Sunday, April 24 - April 26

A weekend of presentations by Shaker scholars, special tours of the Museum, updates on preservation projects, and networking with colleagues and friends. This annual event is for Shaker enthusiasts and newcomers alike! Stay overnight in the Great Stone Dwelling and have your meals in the Shaker Dining Room. Come for the entire weekend or just part of the program. Multiple package options available.

### Friday, April 24

3:00 pm Ned Quist - *Motive, Means, and Opportunity: Amateur Shutterbugs Shoot the Harvard Shakers*

4:00 pm Stephen Paterwic - *Whatever Happened to Watervliet?*

5:00 pm Welcome Reception and Research Poster Presentations

6:00 pm Dinner in the Great Stone Dwelling

7:30 pm Rob Emlen - *The Changing Face of Shaker Life* and Book Signing

### Saturday, April 25

9:00 am Christian Goodwillie - *Eclipse of a Wandering Star: The Last Years of Richard McNemar*

10:00 am Rebecca Soules - *Henry Blinn's Museum: A Shaker Cabinet of Curiosities*

11:15 am Roben Campbell - *Twisting Threads of Love and Union*

1:15 pm Kerry Hackett - *For the Benefit of Believers Only: The Remarkable Odyssey of 30 Medical Receipts*

2:30 pm Andy Belisle - *Restoring an Early Prussian Blue Shaker Cupboard*

Glendyne Wergland and Stephen Paterwic - *Shaker History Round Table*

4:00 pm Kelsie Dalton - *Foodways and Symbolism in Shaker Societies*

5:00 pm Cocktail Reception and Announcement of the Shaker Workshops Award for Outstanding Scholarship

6:00 pm Dinner in the Great Stone Dwelling

7:30 pm Jerry Grant - *One Shaker's Legacy: The Peculiar Case of Elder Freegift Wells' Will*

### Sunday, April 26

9:00 am Richard Marshall - *Celibacy and Sexual Scandal*

10:00 am Sharon Koomler - *I Heard the Archangel Sound the Trumpet: The Power of Testimony*

11:00 am Shirley Wajda - Closing Remarks

12:00 pm Hike to the Feast Ground and Box Lunches

To receive a program and registration form, call the Museum at (603) 632-4346 or email [education@shakermuseum.org](mailto:education@shakermuseum.org).

Thank you to our sponsors:



## Cider and Cheese Fest 2019

With beautiful weather and a Stone Mill and Mill Yard packed with cideries, breweries, cheesemakers, and 20+ Market Vendors, our 4th annual Cider and Cheese Festival was another great success!

This year's additions included a bar tent near the bluegrass players Cardigan Mountain Tradition and Still Hill, and more demonstrating craftspeople at the Brethren's West Shop. This delicious event continues to see increased attendance (1,100+ individuals this year!) and to welcome younger crowds and fresh as well as familiar faces to this event. 2019's Festival was a complete success, raising over \$12,000 for the Museum, in great part thanks to our volunteers who helped plan and run the event. Special thanks go to **Nan and Ken Munsey, Shirley Green, Carolyn Smith, Carol Williams, and Kristin Harrington** for organizational volunteer support.

This year we served up beverages from Contoocook Cider Company, Farnum Hill Cider, Hermit Woods Winery, Stump City Cider, Stowe Cider, Oddball Brewing, and Big Water Brewery. Cheese aficionados were treated to delicacies from Spring Brook Farm, Sunset Rock Farm, Taylor Brothers Creamery, and Plymouth Artisan Cheese. Museum volunteers handed out cheese samples donated from Cabot, Grafton Village Cheese, Jasper Hill Farm, Robie Farm, and Vermont Creamery. **We hope to see you Sunday, October 11th for our 2020 Cider and Cheese Festival!**



## Notes from the Events Desk

By Anna Guenther, Events Coordinator

Thanks to our updated website we continue to grow our overnight room business and book more small-scale events such as retreats, family reunions and small conferences. In addition to making use of our facility rental spaces, these groups bring extra income to the Museum by incorporating overnight stays as well.

Among the groups we saw this fall was a German Writing Group Retreat, comprised of people that had worked together primarily online, so many of them were meeting for the first time at the Museum. They were a lovely fit for our facilities, utilizing the Chapel for prayer in the morning, the Dining Room for meals and the Meeting Room for writing sessions and visiting. We received a generous thank you note, which we wanted to share with you:

“Enfield Shaker Museum ~

thank you so much for surpassing all expectations for our group. your preparations for us did not go unnoticed and we loved every minute of our time there . Words seem inadequate to express how much we enjoyed our time together. So I included a small paragraph one of us wrote the day we left.

thank you , thank you  
wir schreiben writing group”

*If you were a tourist at the big stone dwelling in Enfield, New Hampshire, and you walked up the creaking, years-old staircase to the second floor, you could peek into the sparse, long meeting room with a hardwood floor. Its empty chairs would not tell you of the love that flowed here the last few days . The now-vacant room wouldn't whisper to you of the tears that slipped out onto the papers and the walls couldn't tell of the laughter that spilled down the staircase. If you would walk out the front door, across the lawn to the old chapel, swing open the heavy bronze door, the echoes of the a cappella singing would be gone. But if you could see into our hearts, you would see that they are brimming over with tears, love, laughter, and memories of which these rooms cannot tell you.*

*Michelle Koehn 10/2/19 Wir Schreiben Writing Group*

We were also pleased to host a UNH Cooperative Extension Workshop on Invasive Species. Another perfect fit for the Museum, the group used the Meeting Room as classroom space in the mornings and went out for field work in the afternoon—including over to the Stone Mill Yard, to discuss the ongoing collaborative projects on invasive species between the Museum and NH Fish and Game.

Additionally, we welcomed a group of Granite State Ambassadors (a volunteer-led group that staffs kiosks in travel centers around NH) to experience what we have to offer tourists first-hand.

## 2019 Middle School Ecology Camp

By Martha Doelle, Field Ecology Instructor

We had two wonderful groups of students this summer for our Middle School Ecology Camp. Over the course of two separate week-long programs, these students were able to sample research techniques used by professional scientists.

One of their first projects used field kits to conduct water quality testing at several locations in the Mascoma watershed. Their results indicated that the water quality in the area ranged from good to excellent in all locations tested. In another project, students performed Macroinvertebrate sampling which yielded similar positive results. The students finished up the programs with a wide array of additional activities. They observed bluegills spawning, discovered a quarry with quartzite crystals, surveyed Eastern newt populations, and studied the use of lichens as an indicator of air quality. At the end of the camp there were smiles all around.

The Middle School Ecology Camp is made possible through generous grants from the Wellborn Ecology Fund and the Charles E. and Edna T. Brundage Charitable Scientific Wildlife Conservation Foundation.



### 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.

#### Interim Executive Director

Shirley T. Wajda

#### Curator

Michael O'Connor

#### Development Assistant

Kathryn Jerome

#### Database Manager

Dominic Albanese

#### Education Coordinator

Kyle Sandler

#### Events Coordinator

Anna Guenther

#### Garden Coordinator

Diana Kimball-Anderson

#### Board of Trustees:

Bruce R. Stefany - President

Carolyn J. Maloney - Vice-President

Ian Kipperman - Treasurer

Carolyn A. Smith - Asst. Treasurer

Shirley A. Green - Secretary

Catherine M. Ayres

Edward McLaughlin

Nan Munsey

Gregory C. Schwarz

Michael P. Thomas

Christopher Wadsworth

Paul D. Wachler



## Brethrens' West Shop Clapboards to be Restored

We have recently received a delivery of 5000 linear feet of handmade clear pine clapboards from a New Hampshire clapboard mill. Our Preservation Wednesday volunteer corps will soon begin to prime and paint the clapboards in preparation for their installation this summer.

The Brethrens' West Shop, built in 1820, still has most of its original clapboards. But some sections of the building have areas in need of replacement clapboards, and other sections are missing the clapboards altogether. We will save as many of the original boards as possible.

If you live near the Museum and would like to help paint this winter and early spring we would love to have your help! Please contact Michael O'Connor at 603-632-4346 or [curatorial@shakermuseum.org](mailto:curatorial@shakermuseum.org) for details.



Peter Kimball, New Hampshire clapboard mill owner, and some of his hand-made clapboards destined for the Brethrens' West Shop at Enfield Shaker Museum.

From the North American Review,  
for January 1823.

### *Shakers Gift.*

*A youth of one of the Shaker settlements, of a cheerful, happy spirit, was once asked whether he had his liberty and could do as he pleased. "Certainly," said the youth, repeating doubtless what all are taught to believe, "we do whatever we have a gift to do." On being asked therefore, what he should do, if he wanted, on a fine winter's morning, to go and skate on Enfield pond, he replied that "he should tell the elder he had a gift to go down and skate." Being asked further, whether the elder would probably permit, he answered "certainly, unless the elder had a gift that I should not go." "But if you still told the elder, that you had a gift to go down and skate, and go you must?"—"why then the elder would tell me that I had a "lying gift," and that he had a gift to beat me, if I did not go about my work immediately."—This mode of reconciling a diversity of gifts might serve very well between the elders and the boys; but would be awkward among the elders themselves.*

Woodstock Observer, and Windsor and Orange County  
Gazette (Woodstock, Vermont) 25 March 1823

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Enfield, NH 03748

447 NH Route 4A

Enfield Shaker Museum



Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Enfield, NH  
Permit No. 1