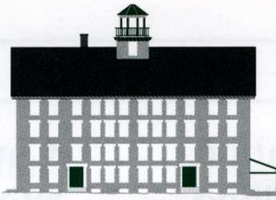


The Friends' Quarterly



A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

Ties That Bind: The Diary of Perry Kidder

By Mary Ann Haagen

On July 4, 2011 the town of Enfield officially celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding. Inspired by this milestone, the Museum's current exhibit *The Ties that Bind* explores many historic and contemporary connections between the town and the Shakers. A diary kept by Enfield resident Perry Kidder between 1854 and 1858 was one of the resources used to look afresh at the mid-19th century economic and social ties between the Shakers and the local community.



The Second Family Shakers' Smith Pond, one of Perry's most often mentioned fishing haunts. Collection of Dartmouth College Library.

Perry Kidder had a short and by some standards, unremarkable life. If we had only the public record, we would know little more than that he was born in 1828, was the second son of Noah and Betsy Fox Kidder, husband of Minerva Flanders, and father of Fred, Walter and Albe. He died in 1863 at age 35, a landless farm laborer. He left a pregnant wife and a four-year-old son. He was buried in Purmort cemetery, near his father's homestead, next to his five-year-old son Fred, who had died two months before.¹

During their married life Perry and Minerva never had a home of their own. His father was a shoemaker by trade and owned a 17-acre farm where they lived in the south west corner of Enfield.² When there was work elsewhere, they moved into other temporary quarters. But the farm was the refuge they returned to again and again when that work dried up.

For students of Shaker history, the frequent references to interaction with the Enfield Shakers make Perry Kidder's diary particularly significant.³ There are few reflections on those interactions, only matter-of-fact notations of exchanges, mostly of a business nature, or about fishing on Shaker property. In their simplicity, the entries provide an important, if limited record of the relationship between the Shaker Society and citizens of the surrounding community. In August of 1854, he writes about working for the Shakers, haying on the Smith farm, and reaping rye. On Wednesday, August 16 he buys a stove from them. In May 1855 he considers selling them his oxen, but doesn't make "any certain bargain." In September he notes "Minerva went off with some herbs to the Shakers." During his spare time, he went fishing and had "good luck," catching fish in Shaker Pond. In May of 1855 he drew a load of bass logs so the Second Family Shakers for

broom handles. He sold a cord for \$1.50. Later that month, he drew 3 cords for \$4.50.

These and many other short entries remind us that although the Shakers were not heavily dependant on hired help in the 1850s, they were a possible employer for day labor, odd jobs, and piecework.⁴ Locals could generate a cash crop by supplying Shaker industries with raw materials readily available in the woods and fields. In addition to basswood logs harvested for the Shaker broom shop, the Kid-

ders gathered pennyroyal and other herbs needed in the medicinal herb industry. The Kidders also purchased supplies from the Shakers, used their gristmill, and frequently went to one of the Shaker families "on business." A particular skill they offered the Shakers was shoemaking. In April 1856 Perry wrote, "Father is to the Shakers cutting out shoes & boots to bring home to make."

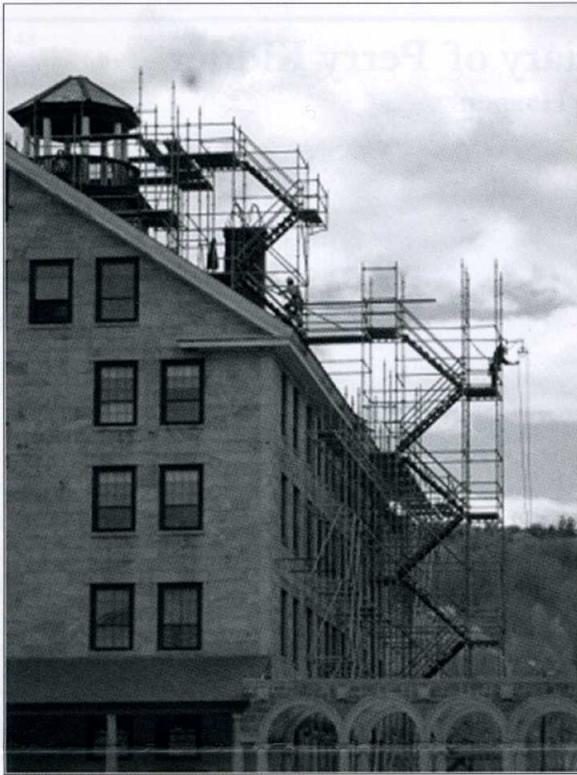
The Shakers had a reputation for self-sufficiency and strove for strict separation from "the world." This modest diary records some of what were thousands of small exceptions to that principle. When the Enfield Shakers needed new shoes or boots and did not have a competent shoemaker in their family they called on their worldly neighbors.

The Shakers valued formal education and prided themselves on the learning opportunities afforded Shaker children. Since they were part of the town's public school system they were evaluated by its school superintending committee. They consistently received high marks for the quality of their facilities, the regularity of student attendance and the abilities of the Shakers assigned to teach.⁵ Conditions in the West Enfield neighborhood were apparently very different. In 1854 it was determined that the school building was "not fit for housing swine." On March 17, 1855 Perry Kidder noted that the community "has voted to build a new school house to be finished by the first of November next." Perry was chosen clerk, helped raise the new school building, and on November 17 recorded the school meeting "voted to accept of the house."

In the 1850s Shaker children and most children of Enfield families ended their formal schooling at the eighth grade. In

(Continued on page 6.)

Progress on the Restoration of the Great Stone Dwelling



Work on the Great Stone Dwelling's main roof, cupola, cornice and chimney began on April 15. The methods and materials follow Federal guidelines for historic preservation. The staff and work crew have discovered that the cornice, which was previously thought to be slanted, is in fact curved, as are cornices on buildings in the Central Ministry in Mount Lebanon, New York. The staff have also determined that the cornice and cupola columns were originally painted dark green, matching the window trim.

The Butler Foundation funded the restoration of the cupola. The Timken Foundation in Canton, Ohio, is providing support for the restoration of the roof. The Museum must raise \$12,000 to complete the project. Individuals may help with a \$500 gift to "adopt" a window of their choice, a \$250 contribution to "adopt" a drawer in one of the restored built-in cabinets, or a \$20 purchase of one of the original slate shingles.

Couch Family Foundation Sponsors Family Programs

Studies show that hands-on programs for families in museums provide a bonding experience that lasts many generations. Interactive, multi-disciplinary programs can encourage active lifestyles and improve social behavior. Some children who do not perform well in a classroom often fare better in a museum environment.

The Couch Family Foundation recently donated \$5,000 to support the Museum's existing family programs and to develop new ones. The grant will help maintain the Harvest Festival, Country Life Festival and Shaker Summer Quest. Sharon Roth, a Museum member who has a Ph.D. in early childhood education, is developing activities that target different age levels and satisfy a broad range of interests. She plans to introduce a pilot project in July. These new activities will be based on primary research about young people who were raised in Shaker societies.

"The Couch Family Foundation is helping us give family visitors choices so that they will return and keep learning something new," said Mary Boswell, Museum Executive Director.



Volunteer Mariann Shaffer teaches children a Shaker song as part of the Shaker Summer Quest. This summer camp is funded in part by the Couch Family Foundation.

Programs, Festivals and Events

Country Life Festival: Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Celebrate country life with the whole family! Learn about traditional NH crafts such as broom making, chair taping, and spinning. Ride in a horse-drawn wagon or on a pony. See local farm animals. Make fairy houses and kites. Play old-fashioned games. Hike the trails, tour the herb garden and Museum, sample local foods. Vendors galore! Music, lunch, and more! Rain or shine! *Sponsored by Trumbell-Nelson Construction, The Couch Family Foundation, Enfield Energy Emporium, Morin Contracting, NH State Council on the Arts.*



Shaker Summer Quest: A Day Camp: Monday-Friday, July 18-22

This unique summer camp is based on experiential learning involving Shaker-inspired and recreational activities. The program is divided into four age groups from 5 to 10. Fees start at \$200 per child. Discounts are available for multiple children. Contact Patricia Loven, Office Manager, info@shakermuseum.org or (603) 632-4346. *Sponsored by the Couch Family Foundation and NH State Council on the Arts. Scholarship are provided by the Couch Family Foundation and the Woman's Fellowship at Community Lutheran Church.*

BBQ Buffet, Beer and Band: Saturday, August 6, 2-9 p.m.

Celebrate summer with an endless BBQ buffet, including all your favorites! Family fun for all ages! Live music and cash bar. \$15/person, \$10/member, \$5/child; kids 3 and under, free. *Sponsored by Proctor's General Store, Enfield Energy Emporium.*

Dragonfly Ball:

Saturday, August 13, 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a luminous evening of music, magic and memories! The festivities begin with hors d'oeuvres and cocktail music by Donna Butler. Enjoy a sit-down dinner with soft music by the East Bay Jazz Ensemble until 7:30 p.m., followed by dance music until 10! Just \$60/member and \$80/non-member. Overnight packages are also available and include all festivities plus breakfast. RSVP by August 8.



Shaker Sister Bertha Lindsay (with crescent moon cap) sits among costumed butterflies, bumblebees and other bugs to celebrate a little mid-summer magic at Canterbury, c. 1914.

Broom-Making Workshop Offered

Broom-making was a craft tradition employed by many Shaker villages. Susan Brown carries on that tradition at the Enfield Shaker Museum and sells her brooms in the Museum Store. She is offering one-on-one instruction this summer for \$50. Proceeds benefit the Museum and include a reproduction Shaker broom to take home. To make an appointment call her at (603) 989-5931.

Chosen Vale International Concert Series



The Center for Advanced Musical Studies, based in Hanover, NH, presents its annual Chosen Vale International Trumpet Seminar at the Museum in June, with world-class trumpeters from across the globe. For the first time in the Museum's history, the program has expanded to include a Chosen Vale International Percussion Seminar in July. Free public performances will be held in the Mary Keane Chapel.

Tuesday, June 14, introduction 8 p.m.

Solo Stockhausen: Improvisations by the brilliant German composer and performer Markus Stockhausen. Pre-concert discussion with Seminar Director Edward Carroll at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 18, 8 p.m.

Trumpet Calls featuring Edward Carroll, Håkan Hardenberger, Thomas Stevens, Markus Stockhausen, seminar participants and a world premiere by composer Zac Munn. Pre-concert discussion with Seminar Director Edward Carroll at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 24, 8 p.m.

20/20 Foresight featuring Stephen Burns, Edward Carroll, Gabriele Cassone and seminar participants. Pre-concert discussion with Seminar Director Edward Carroll at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 25, 4 p.m.

Everybody Loves Difficult Music: Featuring Stephen Burns, Edward Carroll, Gabriele Cassone, Mark Gould and seminar participants.

Thursday, July 7, 8 p.m.

New Visions: The debut concert of the inaugural Chosen Vale International Percussion Seminar, featuring Michael Burritt, Douglas Perkins, and seminar participants. Pre-Concert discussion with Seminar Director Edward Carroll, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 9, 8 p.m.

Time and Space: Featuring Michael Burritt, Matthew Duvall, composers Larry Polansky, David Rosenboom and seminar participants. Pre-Concert discussion with Seminar Director Edward Carroll and composers Larry Polansky and David Rosenboom, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 14, 8 p.m.

An Evening with Steve Reich - in celebration of his 75th Birthday: Featuring Steve Reich, Colin Currie, Douglas Perkins and seminary participants. Pre-Concert discussion with composer Steve Reich, Douglas Perkins and Seminar Director Edward Carroll, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 16, 4 p.m.

Chosen Vale Finale: Featuring Colin Currie, Dan Druckman, seminar participants and a world premiere by composer Christian Wolff. Pre-Concert discussion with Seminar Director Edward Carroll and Douglas Perkins, 3:30 p.m.

Enfield Shaker Museum: a Partner Celebrating the Town's 250th Anniversary

The Town of Enfield was the fifth town in NH to be granted its charter on July 4, 1761. In cooperation with the community's 250th Anniversary Steering Committee, the Museum is participating in many activities. To illustrate the close connections the Shakers had with the people of the Town of Enfield, the Collections and Exhibits Committee, chaired by Galen Beale and including Mary Ann Haagen and Charlie Depuy, have organized three exhibits under the common title, *The Ties that Bind*. One exhibit opened in the Great Stone Dwelling on May 6. Two more will open in Enfield Center and North Enfield in July. These exhibits are sponsored by John P. Carr and Marjorie A. Carr and Reginald and Brenda Jones.

The exhibit in the Great Stone Dwelling explores aspects of Shaker industrialization and celebrates historians, collectors and artists inspired by the Shaker story. The second exhibit is based on an 1854 diary of an Enfield Center farmer and correspondence of 20th century scholars deeply interested in the Shaker experience. In a presentation at this year's Spring Forum, Mary Ann Haagen revealed new information about the shift from occasional interaction between neighbors to "interpretation" of the Shakers by people whose families had known them. This exhibit will be installed in the Community Center in Enfield Center. The third exhibit explains how North Enfield was transformed from a small rural enclave into a vibrant industrial center because of the railroad and the mills. The Shakers acquired the water rights on the powerful Mascoma River and built water-powered mills that they leased to factory owners. These commercial buildings and industries helped make an economic force in this state. Exhibit panels will be installed on the exterior of the former railroad station on Depot Street in North Enfield, and informational plaques will mark historic mill and dam sites along the Mascoma River.

Sunday, July 3, 1 p.m.: Patriotic Sing-Along - Mary Keane Chapel

George and Donna Butler will present a shortened version of their annual Patriotic Sing-A-Long in the Mary Keane Chapel. Opening with *America* and *America the Beautiful* and closing with *God Bless America*, the program will largely be the singing of Armed Services songs. The Butlers will also perform *Stars and Stripes Forever* as an organ duet on the 1930 Casavant pipe organ, one of Enfield's treasures. Bring your singing voice and a flag to wave!

Sunday, July 3, 2-4 p.m.: Old-Fashioned Field Day - Stone Mill Grounds

Enjoy an old-fashioned field day for a walloping good time! Compete in teams with your family, neighborhood, church, sports team, business, or just a group of friends. Teams of 4-10 participants will try to best each other in gunnysack and 3-legged races, balancing an egg on a spoon, relays, eating saltines and whistling, 100-yard dash, and many more. Prizes awarded. Call (603) 632-4346.

Saturday, July 2, 8 p.m. - Midnight - Colonial Ball - Stone Mill

Join us for live music and English country dances called by David Millstone. Colonial attire is encouraged, but you may wear evening attire. Door prizes and refreshments are included. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased at the Enfield Village Association office, the town offices, the Museum Store, and the "Enfield NH 250th Celebration Facebook Page." Tickets will also be sold at the door @ \$25.

For a description of all the activities, call EVA (603) 632-7197 or Enfield Town Office (603) 632-5026, or log on to "Enfield NH 250th Celebration."



(Continued from page 1)

general, the Shaker leadership of that period discouraged “unnecessary book learning” and prohibited the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. At Enfield Shaker Village one of the only ways a bright young adult could continue “book” education was by being appointed to teach school.⁶

Perry was able to pursue his education informally without seeking permission from another. He studied on his own at night, attended presentations of visiting lecturers and politicians, and even spent precious income to purchase books. Unfortunately, despite his efforts to “pass the best examination he had ever given” he was denied a teaching certificate in Enfield. He believed that small town, and family politics were the cause of his being refused a teaching job.⁷

Despite his greater opportunity for self-initiated learning, Perry and Shaker youth probably received their most valuable education through apprenticeship to working adults. Shaker children participated in a variety of agricultural, home economy and manufacturing tasks that equipped them to make a living whether they remained within the confines of a Shaker village or not. Perry also depended on his practical education to piece together a living. He learned the shoemaker’s trade and rudimentary farming from his father. He also developed “jack of all trade” skills that allowed him to take advantage of whatever employment was available. Between 1854-58 he found work as a farm day laborer, a construction worker, a blacksmith’s assistant, a carpenter, a leather worker in Nashua, NH and as a schoolteacher in Grantham. He obtained a position as a Post Master’s assistant at one of Enfield’s rural post offices, and earned small amounts of money as a fiddler, by gathering and selling herbs and spruce gum, doing militia service, and as a penmanship teacher.

During the diary years (1854-58) North Enfield was being transformed by the railroad and industrialization resulting from the infusion of Shaker investment capital. What had been pastureland was now Enfield’s center of manufacturing. Yet for Perry and Minerva Kidder, prospects for improving themselves economically were illusive. Eventually they started to listen to friends who were moving west. Two individuals who had gone out ahead of them were former members of the Enfield Shaker Society – William Shaw and Henry Irish. Both men had come to the Kidder farm for temporary work and shelter when they left the Society. Like many who came to maturity in the Shaker society, these former Shaker brothers heard the siren call of “the west” and left all they had known in Enfield to begin life anew. In April 1857 the Kidders also set out for Wisconsin, and over the next six months tried to put down new roots. They were cruelly defeated by the state’s harsh climate, their son’s grave illness, and inadequate capital to begin a new life in the west. The family returned to Enfield deflated and in debt, and picked up the life they had hoped to leave behind. Fortunately Perry’s modest future still held the promise of good fishing. On April 17, 1858 he wrote, “went fishing for pickeril – the Shaker pond is most clear of ice.”

¹ Vital Records, Enfield, Grafton Co. NH compiled by G.M. Roberts, Enfield Town Library, Enfield, NH.

² Map of the Town of Enfield, Grafton Co. NH published by E.M. Woodford, Philadelphia, 1855. The map identifies the Noah Kidder homestead and the homes of neighbors, most of whom are referred to in the diary. Enfield Town Library, Enfield, NH.

³ Perry Kidder, West Enfield, NH 1854 Diary, Hew Hampshire Historical Society Library, Concord, NH (NHHS 2006-005 m). There are 73 references to Shakers, former Shakers, business transactions with the Society or fishing trips on Shaker property, particularly at the Second Family’s Smith Pond.

⁴ In his *Enfield Advocate* newspaper article, *The Shakers In 1853: Two Busy Summer Days at the Church Family*, Henry Cumings notes, “As no hired help were employed, it is the custom for all the help from all the trades to turn out for haying.” As Perry was definitely hired help, it is likely that the Second Family employed him.

⁵ Annual Report of the School Superintending Committee, Enfield, NH March 1853. Enfield Public Library, Town Reports. “In District No 13 [Church Family Shakers] every scholar appears to have entire confidence in their teacher. No person in the district is known to enter a word against him – not a whisper is heard to this effect. The scholars also understand that they must go into the schoolroom at a seasonable time and for the purpose of learning, and for nothing else. In this school we find the government nearly perfect, and the scholars making rapid progress in all their studies. It has been pronounced by the Commissioner to be equal, at least, to any School in the County. This state of things has not been produced by the superior qualifications of the teacher, but by the course pursued by the District. If every District in our town would become as united in effort to make their schools useful, many of the evils of which they now complain would be unknown.”

⁶ For a detailed discussion of attitudes about “running after unnecessary knowledge” at Enfield Shaker Village in the 1850s see Hervey Elkins, *Fifteen Years in the Senior Order of Shakers*, 1852, Dartmouth Press, Hanover, reprinted by AMS Press NYC.

⁷ Dec. 5, 1855 “I am studying all of my spare moments. I am bound to pass as good an examination as I can. I have some enemies that wish to hurt me in this school. Thomas Wier & Simon Horton are opposed to my keeping the school. It is an old prejudice not my qualifications.” Thomas Wier was Perry Kidder’s uncle by marriage, but no friend to his nephew in this case.

Invest in the Museum's Future

Become a member of a distinguished group of exceptional individuals who ensure the future of the Enfield Shaker Museum.

Wills and Bequests

Your will is a written testimony of your concern for your family and favorite charities. Contact your attorney to discuss what form of bequest fits your estate plan. You can name the Enfield Shaker Museum the direct beneficiary of specific assets, or a portion of your estate, or of your residual estate after payment of other bequests.

Charitable Gift Annuity

In exchange for cash or securities of \$5,000 or more, you can establish a Charitable Gift Annuity and receive an income tax deduction and partially tax free income payments for the rest of your life. After your lifetime, the Enfield Shaker Museum receives the annuity assets.

Remembering the Museum in your estate plan or with a gift annuity are two of many ways you can invest in the future of the Museum.

The *Friends' Quarterly* is a publication of

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Shaker Workshops Presents to Roben Campbell \$500 Cash Award for Outstanding New Research

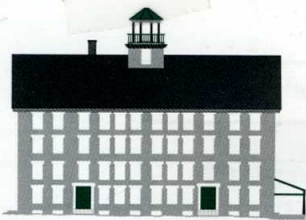
At the fifth consecutive Spring Forum on the Shakers on May 7, Dick Dabrowski and Carolyn Smith presented the *Shaker Workshops Award for Outstanding New Research* to Roben Campbell, an independent scholar who specializes in the Harvard Shakers. At the Spring Forum, Campbell gave a presentation on the Harvard Cemetery, finding organization in what had appeared for many years to be a haphazard arrangement of the graves.

Shaker Workshops has sponsored this \$500 cash award for three years to raise the standards in the field of Shaker studies. A panel of respected scholars (James Garvin, Robert Emlen, Randy Ericson) reviewed the abstracts and papers of the presenters.

The panelists praised Campbell's "original interpretation," which they said was "a promising pilot project for comparative analysis at other villages." They noted her "compilation of existing data from different sources, assembled and analyzed, looking for patterns." One remarked that her "material evidence draws unexpected conclusions from a highly unusual source." Past award recipients are Ilyon Woo and Steve Paterwic.



Carolyn Smith, Sales Manager for Shaker Workshops (left) and Richard Dabrowski, President of Shaker Workshops (right), present the award to Roben Campbell.



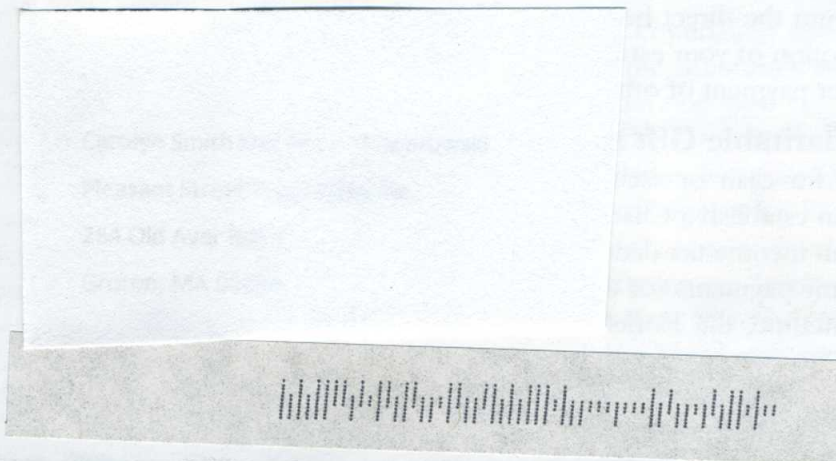
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Thank you!

Stop by the Museum Store seven days a week! The Store offers unique hand crafted items and charming souvenirs. Take advantage of our featured item-of-the-month! In June, Cardigan Mountain Soapworks' items are buy-one-get-one-half-off. In July, find discounts off many of our items during the Christmas in July Sale. In August, the Enfield Shaker Singers' CD "All at Home" is only \$5. Visit our online store at www.shakermuseum.org. Contact Store Manager Hollyann Martin at (603) 632-4346 or e-mail shakermuseum.giftshop@gmail.com.

