



Enfield Shaker Museum Fall Forum September 7 – 9, 2012

Friday, September 7

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Registration

Pick up your registration packet at the admissions counter in the Great Stone Dwelling.

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Guided Tour – Shaker Bridge Exhibit

To celebrate the rebuilding of the Shaker Bridge across Mascoma Lake, volunteers have been busy planning this new exhibit. The Shaker Bridge was first built in 1849 and replaced in 1939 after the “Great Storm” of 1938. This third bridge will be officially opened on September 15th. Members of the Museum’s Curatorial Team will lead a guided tour of the exhibit.

5:30 – 6:30 pm Welcome Reception

6:30 – 7:30 pm Dinner

7:30 – 8:30 pm *A History of Celibacy* Discussion with Author Elizabeth Abbott

Elizabeth Abbott’s book not only touches upon the Shaker’s abstinence, but also on the role celibacy has played in many other areas of history--from shaping religious lives, conditioning athletes and shamans, surfacing in classical poetry and camp literature, resonating in the voices of castrati, and permeating ancient mythology.

Saturday, September 8

8:00 – 9:00 am Breakfast

9:00 – 9:15 am Welcome

Mardy High, President and Dolores Struckhoff, Executive Director

Enfield Shaker Forum New Scholarship Presentations

9:15 – 10:15 am 'Elder Issachar seems to be continually at hand': The Complicated Legacy of Shaker Pioneer Issachar Bates

Issachar Bates came to symbolize, for generations of Shakers, many of the essential qualities associated with the frontier expansion period of Shaker history. Unorthodox though it was, his life captivated the imagination of later Shakers. Carol Medicott seeks to explain why.

10:30 – 11:30 am Through Their Stomachs: Shakers, Food, and Business Practices in the Nineteenth Century

Ruth Ann Murray examines the primacy of food in the establishment and growth of Shakerism. Drawing on relatively untapped Shaker sources, she shows how food provided the economic basis for their communities and established the Shaker reputation for excellence, gaining them respect despite their unorthodox lifestyle.

11:30 am – 12:30 pm 'Boutez En Avant': Interpreting *The Enterprise*, A 20th-century Shaker Literary Journal

The Enterprise was an early 20th Century in-house Shaker Journal of the Canterbury Shaker community. Laura Smith shows how the entirely female cast of contributors used the monthly journal to strengthen their Shaker family - to reaffirm their affectional ties; to narrate a communal memory; to coach religious and gender conventions; and to laud home, harvest, and craft practices.

12:30 – 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 – 2:30 pm Roundtable Discussion of Papers

2:30 – 4:30 pm Powerful Agendas...and tour of the North Family Trustees Office at LaSalette

Enfield's North Family functioned as the gathering order for the Enfield Shakers from 1812 until 1913. During that time it was home to some who were towers of strength for Shakerism, and others who challenged every principle on which the society was built. Mary Ann Haagen introduces the legacies of a few of those striking personalities, including John Lyon, Mary and Joseph Dyer, Charlotte Chaffin, Edward and Henry Cumings, Austin Bronson, George Baxter, and Elizabeth Chandler.

Following the talk, as guests of the Missionaries of LaSalette, we will tour what was originally the Trustees office of the North Family. This brick building, erected in 1850, retains much of its original Shaker character and interior detail.

5:30-6:30 pm Cocktails in the Shaker Herb Garden

6:30 Announcement of the Shaker Workshops Award for Outstanding New Scholarship

7:00 – 8:00 pm Dinner

8:00 pm Getting to know the Enfield Shakers through civic records, newspapers and historic documents: An update on Enfield's Shaker data collection project.

Carolyn Smith knows family genealogy is a subject of interest to many Americans. When a member or members of the family turn out to have been Shakers, even if only for a short time, the researcher is anxious to know more about why they were here, how long they stayed, what their experience was, and why they left. Increasingly we are looking beyond Shaker historic documents to learn about the individuals who once lived at Enfield Shaker Village.

Our research efforts are enhanced by sharing with descendants and others whose families had associations with the Enfield Shakers.

If you think you have a Shaker relative in your family tree you'll have a chance to search our database for information. And please, share your research with us.

Sunday, September 9

8:00 – 9:00 am Breakfast

9:15 – 10:15 am Shaker Readings and song

In the Shaker Forum tradition, we will close the program in a circle, reflecting on the weekend's activities, reading favorite passages from Shaker primary sources, and singing Shaker songs.

11:00 am Check Out

Guests are "freely welcome" to stay on the site for the afternoon to relax, stroll the grounds, visit our gardens, or hike our trails before departing for home.

Fall Forum Presenters

Elizabeth Abbott is a Canadian writer and historian who has written numerous books and articles. She holds a Ph.D. in 19th Century history from McGill University. She is currently a Senior Research Associate at Trinity College, University of Toronto.

Mary Ann Haagen holds degrees from Cornell, Columbia and the Dalcroze School of Music. She has spent many years presenting, with the Enfield Shaker Singers, the connections between the Shaker song and the broader history of the Shakers. She is a visiting scholar at Dartmouth College.

Carol Medicott teaches Historical and Cultural Geography and Asian Studies at Northern Kentucky University. She has written and researched extensively on early American Shakers, particularly the music and the organizational challenges of the Western Shakers.

Ruth Ann Murray is Assistant Dean for Business Development and Director of the Center for Professional Education at Boston University's Metropolitan College. She is a graduate of Boston College and has an MA in Education, a MA in History, and a Ph.D. in American Studies from Boston University.

Carolyn Smith is a former Executive Director of the Enfield Shaker Museum and remains a long-time Museum supporter. During that time she worked with the state to conserve 1,000 acres of Shaker land. During her years as Executive Director, the new organization purchased the Laundry-Dairy, which became the Museum's headquarters. Carolyn currently works for Shaker Workshops in Ashburnham, Massachusetts.

Laura Smith lectures in English Literature at the University of New Hampshire, where she also did her graduate work receiving her M.S.T. and Ph.D. degrees. Her central interest is the role of material culture in the study of literature, specifically the role of textiles in women's lives in the 19th century.