

Enfield Shaker Museum

Spring Forum on the Shakers

April 4-6, 2008

A Weekend of Presentations, Performances, Meals and More



*I found the way to Zion. I never will look back.
I ever will be faithful and keep the solid track.
There's love in Union flowing among the Chosen Few,
So I'll not be slothful but still the way pursue.*

Journey of Life (1905)

Rhoda Carter (1827 - c. 1906)

Enfield Shaker from

Newbury, Vermont, c. 1836-1881

Friday, April 4

Noon-6:30 p.m. Registration

If you have pre-registered, your packet will be waiting for you! Then relax in your room and private bath, shop in the Museum Store and socialize with your friends and colleagues.

6:30-7:00 p.m. Reception and Tour

Shaker Yokefellows: Enfield Shakers from Vermont.

Enjoy the company of your fellow attendees at this reception. Sample classic Vermont cheeses and wines. Tour the new exhibit which answers the question as to why there was no Shaker community in Vermont. The title of the exhibit is based on the epic poem *New Hampshire* by Robert Frost, who lived in both states. Drawing from the New England countryside, his poems still resonate today. *Shaker Yokefellows* documents 193 native Vermonters who moved to New Hampshire to take up the Shaker way of life and why they settled in Enfield.

7:00-7:45 p.m. Dinner

Shaker tradition and local flavors are blended in our menu: herbed chicken with cranberry chutney, Shaker squash rolls and butter, broccoli with sesame butter, salad, farmstead chevre toasts, Mother Ann's birthday cake or Shaker Indian pudding with cream/hard sauce.

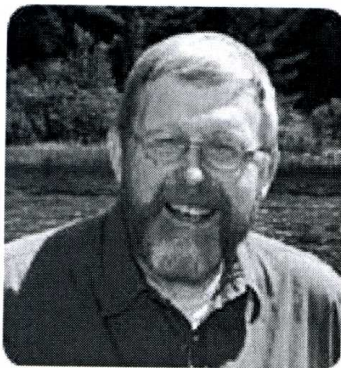
7:45-8:45 p.m. Willem Lange, Keynote Speaker

At present I Am Living in Vermont

It is impossible for people living anywhere near the New Hampshire-Vermont border to ignore the differences between these two states, differences usually imperceptible to people from away. Why, for example, did native Vermonters move to New Hampshire to join the Enfield Shakers instead of founding their own Shaker society in the Green Mountain State? Following the tradition of poet Robert Frost, Willem Lange has lived in both New Hampshire and Vermont. After sampling New Hampshire for 40 years and Vermont for one, he seems to think he has some worthwhile ideas on the subject.

Keynote Speaker

One of the most beloved storytellers in northern New England, Willem Lange writes the weekly column "A Yankee Notebook," which appears in several New England newspapers. He is a commentator and host for Vermont Public Radio as well as New Hampshire and Vermont Public Television. He received an Emmy nomination for a piece he wrote for Vermont Public Television. He has published many audio recordings and books. From 1968-1972 he directed the Dartmouth Outward Bound Center. He is an adopted member of the Dartmouth Class of 1957 and is the founder of the Geriatric Adventure Society. After 40 years in New Hampshire, he and his wife Ida moved to Vermont. They have three children and four grandchildren.



Saturday, April 5

8:00-9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00-10:00 a.m. *The New Hampshire Bishopric*

Mary Boswell will provide new insights on this unit of government within the Shaker Ministry.

10:15-11:15 a.m. *Enfield Shaker Village and the Landscape of Gospel Order*

The communal villages designed and built by Shaker societies are clearly different in appearance from the neighboring farms and villages. This appearance is the manifestation of the distinctive thought, belief, and behavior that governed life in a Shaker community. In this talk Robert P. Emlen will examine the link between Shaker belief and the appearance of Enfield Shaker village.

11:30-12:30 p.m. *Shaker Rugs with a Twist*

Roben Campbell will tell the story of a rug making tradition in the New England Shaker communities. Drawing from deaconess journals at Harvard from 1845 to 1875, she will explain how this tradition fits into the larger context of Sisters' textile work.

12:30-1:45 p.m. Lunch

2:00-3:00 p.m. *The Spirit of Speculation:*

The Early Industrialization of the Enfield Shakers

Caleb Dyer as a young Shaker Trustee foresaw the Enfield Shakers' inadequate waterpower and good agricultural land. Galen Beale will explain how he undertook the building and running of various factories in nearby North Enfield to create a steady income for the Shaker community.

3:15-4:15 p.m. *Tangled Skeins: Enfield Village & the Shakers*

The town of Enfield is located on the other side of Lake Mascoma from the Shaker community, but its history and economic development as a mill town were uniquely entwined with the Enfield Shakers. Suzanne Hinman, Ph.D., will lead a walking tour of downtown Enfield, pointing out the original Shaker structures.

6:00 p.m. Traditional Shaker Dinner

Hancock Village Roast Loin of Pork, homemade applesauce, roasted potatoes, green beans, salad, North Union Village Honey Cake with Almonds, Lemon Sorbet, Coffee or Tea, and complimentary wine.

8:00 p.m. *Journey to Heaven:*

The Shaker Way—Pontine Theater

The text for this innovative short play is drawn from the Shakers' letters, journals, testimonials and divinely received messages. The action is based on original subject matter and lyrical movement suggested by Shaker work, worship and musical traditions. The set is based on their architecture and visual arts. Pontine Theater was formed in 1977 and is based in Portsmouth.

Co-Artistic Director Marguerite Mathews is New Hampshire's Artist Laureate.



