In October of 1987, the Museum purchased its first Enfield Shaker side chair. In fact, it was one of the very first Shaker artifacts the Museum acquired. While that first chair is a sentimental favorite, we have been fortunate over the years to have built a strong collection of Enfield chairs. (The chair is included in the Museum’s online collection database. Search by its accession number, 1987.7.1.)

There are few objects of Shaker material culture as iconic as the Shaker chair. Chairs parallel other aspects of Shaker life, in that there is a consistency or uniformity of design Society-wide, but there is room for each community to exert individuality in the specific details of their own chairs. While each community’s chair style is unique, it is also a recognizable part of the whole.

Enfield’s chairs are held in high regard. In their book, *The Shaker Chair* (1984), Charles Muller and Timothy Rieman begin the chapter on Enfield chairs with the following: “The symmetrical pommel turnings, slender posts, and backward cant make the Enfield chair the most delicate and beautiful of Shaker seating furniture. It is the ultimate expression of the conservation of materials to create a functional form.”

In his book, *Fifteen Years in the Senior Order of Shakers*, published in 1853 (several years after he left Enfield), Hervey Elkins describes the dwelling rooms. “The dwelling rooms are strictly furnished according to the following rules: plain chairs, bottomed with rattan or rush, and light so as to be easily portable; one rocking chair is admissible in each room, but such a luxury is unencouraged.”

This photograph (right) of Great Stone Dwelling Room #1 illustrates two chairs of the type Hervey described.

Enfield chairs are made of yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) and are typically seated with cane or rush. Some other common features are:

- slender, elongated, “candle-flame finials” generally symmetrical above and below a single center scribe mark;
- shoulder at the base of the finial, where it swells to meet the post; and
- back slats with three graduated curves on their top edges, and rounded top edge facing the front.

In addition, side chairs have tilters on back posts, and rocking chair arms have a graceful sweep, rising to terminate at a scrolled knob. (Arm-less versions of Enfield rocking chairs were also made.)
The Enfield Shaker Museum Fall 2020/Annual Report

The Enfield Shaker Chair  Continued from page 1

The Anatomy of Enfield Shaker Chairs

On January 26, 2021, the first program of our winter series on Shaker material culture featuring items from the collection examined the Enfield chair. This presentation identified common features of the Enfield chair, and then looked at our entire collection of chairs displayed together. This program is available on the Museum’s YouTube channel and can be viewed at https://youtu.be/9FEyGD-yCaM or link to it on our website shakermuseum/shakerstudies.org.

The remaining programs in the series investigate Enfield cooperage, tables, medicinal industry bottles, and sewing desks. They are presented the last Tuesday of the month, February - May, at noon via Zoom. Please register online at shakermuseum.org.

Weather-Wise: Historical Records, Contemporary Conversations

We check the weather every day and every day the weather affects what we wear and, often, how we do what we do. For some of us, weather affects our mood. So, we know intuitively that the weather is a factor in our daily lives, even as modern technologies—air conditioning, automobile windshield wipers, shelter, sunscreen, snow-melting heated sidewalks, and the like—daily defy the intimacy humans have with the environment. In this era of increased climate change, though, more attention is warranted.

How did the Enfield Shakers understand and experience weather? All through 2021, and with the support of New Hampshire Humanities, Enfield Shaker Museum will be hosting a series of events about the weather. Four free lectures by nationally known scholars will provide context for our community-based research and inquiry into the Enfield Shakers’ weather experiences—“good, bad, or indifferent,” as one Shaker remarked. You may register for the remaining lectures on the Events page of the Museum’s website.

We also seek volunteers to record daily weather by knitting Tempestries (www.tempestryproject.org) for a summer exhibition on the Shakers and weather. We’ll be offering weather-related craft kits to children. In the fall, we’ll host a book club dedicated to reading fiction and nonfiction works in which weather is a major player. And be sure to check out our weather station, now located in the Great Stone Dwelling’s bell tower and transmitting to Weather Underground (https://bit.ly/2LL1DUg)!

Save the Dates:
March 11 – 7 - 8 pm – “The History of the Great New England Hurricane as Documented by the People,” Dr. Lourdes Avilés, Professor of Meteorology at Plymouth State University
April 8 – 7 - 8 pm – “Exhibiting Nation’s Nature: The Changing Climate of Art History” Dr. Alan C. Braddock, Associate Professor of Art History and American Studies at William and Mary
May 13 – 7 - 8 pm – “Climate in Words and Numbers: How Early Americans Recorded the Weather in Almanacs” Dr. Joyce E. Chaplin, Professor of Early American History at Harvard University
Although the 2020 Annual Members Meeting was officially held in the Great Stone Dwelling, the majority of the members who attended the meeting attended via Zoom. As challenging as this year has been it has allowed Museum members from around the country to attend programs, meetings, and exhibits without leaving home!

Remarks by Bruce R. Stefany, President, Board of Trustees

In the midst of a devastating pandemic and a subsequent economically challenging environment, your Enfield Shaker Museum has overcome these challenges through the initial and ongoing contributions of time, physical commitment, and financial contributions of our steadfast staff led by Executive Director Shirley Wajda, a diverse and loyal volunteer group, and my fellow Board members.

Corporate - We were extremely pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Shirley Wajda as the Executive Director effective October 1, 2020. Shirley had served as the interim Executive Director for the prior 12 months and has led the Museum through these trying times, including a grant writing expertise that has allowed us to survive financially in light of the loss of admission fees, room rentals, wedding cancellations, and the cancellation of the Spring Forum.

In September, we also signed an agreement with LaSallette of Enfield, Inc., to accept title and ownership of all personal property previously owned by LaSallette located in the Mary Keane Chapel. More importantly, it has agreed to assist in the reclaiming and return of Enfield Shaker documents and items currently held by other museums.

Grants - As noted above, Shirley has been instrumental in the successful pursuit of grants available through federal and state programs, and through private foundations. These include a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) grant of $60,900 and the NH Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund (through GOFERR) of almost $16,000. In addition, the Byrne Foundation, thanks to the efforts of trustee Carolyn Smith, continued its lengthy history of financial support with a $15,000 grant. Finally, the Couch Family Foundation provided a $10,000 grant, with plaudits to trustee Carolyn Maloney for her successful efforts.

Programs - The Education Committee and Education Program Coordinator Kyle Sandler prepared and distributed craft kits as the Museum’s children-focused Harvest Festival-To-Go program. The Cider and Cheese Festival was replaced with an on-line food history/studies program of four speakers and a hugely successful pie sale. Finally, the Museum’s social media presence continues to gain followers, thanks to several staff members, offering members-only and public programming on-line. This included a Virtual Collections program in coordination with Hancock Shaker Village and South Union Shaker Village.

Retiring Trustees - In closing, I want to recognize and thank Shirley Green, Carolyn Smith, and Chris Wadsworth for their completion of two three-year terms as trustees. Their Board meeting attendance and participation will be missed, while I anticipate their continuation of their long-standing volunteer activities.

Remarks by Dr. Shirley Wajda, Executive Director

It is either November 8th, 2020, or March 253rd, 2020. Or both. It depends, doesn’t it, on how you feel about the pandemic. It’s difficult enough to walk into an administrative job when the sort of jobs you’ve had are heavy on responsibilities and lighter on power and direction. Add a pandemic, and well. You feel that there’s other power holding you back and whatever you wish to accomplish is now deferred, delayed, or denied. We seem to be living in a timeless present, not being able to predict when the pandemic will end and what a “new normal” looks like.

As a historian, I have been taught to embrace ambiguity. But that lesson isn’t useful for an institution or its bottom line. The pandemic has denied how we do what we usually have done. But in that denial we found what we can do. And we are taking lessons from this new knowledge. New ways of reaching schoolchildren and families through at-home activities and digital resources for teachers. Going on-line to reach people where they virtually live (and living in their pajamas). Engaging in humorous memes not to poke fun at Shakers but extend to new audiences Shaker history and culture, pre-empting the pandemic—if only for a minute. Changing the way we advertise our retiring rooms to conform to pandemic precautions and assure guests of their safety. Taking advantage of the Museum’s closure to accelerate and complete preservation projects—from door lock mechanisms and door jambs and windows and roofs to painting the Dining Room and recovering the allée to the Feast...
Remarks by Dr. Shirley Wajda, Executive Director (Continued from page 3)

Ground. Discovering that visitors desired more, measurable in the number of questions they asked and the length of time they spent on site, even as social distancing required caution.

I cannot praise staff members highly enough. They, like the board members to whom I owe special thanks for their support, were patient as I learned what was expected of me. With the loss of six seasonal employees and a housekeeper, staff members took on new and extra duties. Their willingness to pivot quickly and find new ways of fulfilling our mission and keeping the proverbial wolves at bay shows how creative and committed they are. You have already heard what they have been able to accomplish over the last year. It is simply remarkable that so small a staff has such a large impact. I feel lucky to have such wonderful people with whom to work, create, and laugh.

Our volunteers never cease to amaze me. Faced with the cancellation of the Harvest Festival, the Education Committee designed and assembled craft kits. With financial support of the Brundage Foundation, the Museum was able to offer 200 kits during September—all were reserved in a truly short time. Time and again, volunteers have supplied much needed advice and labor when we needed it the most, from Preservation Wednesday workers and Village Gardeners, all of whom improve this historic site, to bakers for our newly created October pie sale. (Who can say no when Shirley Green asks?) Bounty from the Children’s Garden and the Production Garden were sent to local food shelves and Meals on Wheels programs. I wish to extend a special thanks to interpreters Christina Cronin and Lisa Torres, who volunteered to take on nearly all the tours between July 15 and October 31 (including all the weekends), ensuring that we could meet the challenge of hosting safely and effectively our visitors.

Challenges remain, of course. Museums across the nation and the world are learning new ways of reaching and maintaining audiences. Enfield Shaker Museum is no exception. Although it seems that the pandemic has stopped our plans, time is sneakily ineluctable, and we must reflect and evaluate as we prepare for the coming year’s work. We know that we’ll remain a virtual museum to many. Our digitization projects, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, are preparing us to create online exhibitions through Google Arts and Culture. We know that we need to maintain and increase our membership and engage as many visitors as possible in safe and socially distanced ways. To those purposes we are scripting smartphone tours and revising our exhibition practices and topics. I am thus delighted to announce that the Museum has just been awarded a major grant from New Hampshire Humanities. Now entitled “Weather-Wise: Historical Records, Contemporary Conversations” this project explores how humans in the past have experienced and documented the weather, and how these experiences and records inform human understanding of climate. With virtual talks, lectures, and discussions led by humanities experts to frame the project, community members will research and craft Tempestries, knitted “tapestrys” recording through standardized yarn colors the daily temperatures during a given year. These artifacts will constitute a central feature of a community and museum co-curated exhibition exploring specifically the Enfield Shakers’ experience, knowledge, and documentation of weather between 1793 and 1923. How did the Enfield Shakers survive 1816, the year without a summer, when frost or snow was evident every month? How did they alter their foodways in bad agricultural years? How much wood did they cut and store for the winter to heat the Great Stone Dwelling? How much wood did they cut and store for the winter to heat the Great Stone Dwelling? How did their clothes protect them in different seasons? During the exhibition’s installation, Enfield Shaker Museum will also host programming to encourage visitors of all ages to explore their own weather assumptions and knowledge.

In a recent interview with The New York Times, the Smithsonian Institution Secretary, Dr. Lonnie Bunch, observed:

I believe very strongly that museums have a social justice role to play, that museums have an opportunity to not become community centers, but to be at the center of their community, to help the community grapple with the challenges they face, to use history, to use science, to use education, to give the public tools to grapple with [the issues of the day].

(Continued on page 9).
2020 Board of Trustees

Executive Committee

Bruce Stefany (President) is also the Chair Emeritus and a corporator at Canterbury Shaker Village. He currently serves as a trustee of the New Hampshire Historical Society and is a Gettysburg College Trustee Emeriti. He is retired. Bruce and his wife Betsy live in West Lebanon and have two grown children.

Carolyn Maloney (Vice-President) has been the Treasurer of Hypertherm, Inc., in Hanover, NH, since 2006. She has also been the Treasurer of ESM and has been an active contributor to the Twin Pines Housing Trust and NH United Way. She has been a key fiduciary to the Hypertherm, Inc., Stock Ownership Plan. She has led many of the Hypertherm Global growth and financing projects.

Ian Kipperman (Treasurer) is a Senior Accountant, specializing in for-profit and not-for-profit audits with a side of tax and consulting, with Gallagher, Flynn and Company, LLP in Lebanon, NH. He and his wife Gabriela currently reside in Lebanon. Though he has resided in the Upper Valley since 2014, his family has roots in Enfield. Ian is passionate about his clients, his wife, and giving back to the community.

Carolyn Smith (Secretary) was the founding Director of Enfield Shaker Museum. She recently retired after 25 years at Shaker Workshops where she was responsible for managing the order processing, order fulfillment, and customer service departments. She and her husband Dick Dabrowski are actively involved in the preservation efforts currently underway at the Museum.

Board of Trustees - Returning Members

Ed Mclaughlin is a retired business/technology executive. In a career which required living many places in the US and around the world, Ed enjoyed learning about different cultures. He learned to appreciate the need for cultural competence and the ability to interpret it accurately. ESM’s mission to preserve Shaker culture, history, and buildings is of great interest to him.

Nan Munsey served on the ESM Board between 2008 and 2014, with specific responsibilities for developing educational programs and garden outreach. A veteran middle school teacher in the 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.

Michael Thomas is a retired Lutheran pastor, having served at Our Savior Lutheran Church and Dartmouth College (2003 to 2017). Prior to that he served parish and campus ministries in Boston and Cambridge, MA, as well as Vienna, Austria, and Jerusalem, Israel. In 1979, he and his wifeSusan mounted a 5-day symposium at Yale Divinity School and St. Peter's Church in Manhattan entitled: “Visible Theology: Emblems of Shaker Life, Art, Work and Worship.”

Paul Waehler and his wife Lynn have been Museum members from its earliest days but didn’t become active until he first joined the Board in 2008. Since then, he has been a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and has been on site weekly to undertake demolition, cleaning, brush and tree clearing, and construction. Paul is a retired mechanical engineer and the president of the Enfield Historical Society.
Gail McPeek holds degrees in Natural Resource Management (Rutgers University) and Wildlife Biology (University of Kentucky). She worked for six years at the Kalamazoo Nature Center in Michigan. It was there that she recognized the value and role of nonprofit organizations in communities. In 1992 Gail and her husband Mark moved to Hanover, NH where they raised two children. Gail served on the board of the Hanover Conservancy for ten years.

Amy Resnick attended Ohio Wesleyan University. Upon graduation, she deferred acceptance to law school and took a year to live and work in Boston. She attended the University of Richmond School of Law. In 2018, her husband took his medical residency at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, and she joined Downs Rachlin Martin, where she specializes in Labor and Employment, representing the management side in a variety of matters.

Nancy Rosenthal divides her time between Hewlett, NY, and Enfield, NH. She owns a metals business in Brooklyn that her father-in-law started in 1948. Nancy graduated from University of California, Davis with a BA in American Studies. She went on to San Francisco State and earned her MA in Special Education. Nancy has two children, both physicists, working to change the world through science!

Ardis Vaughan a long-time Boston resident, spends time in New Hampshire with her partner Bob Chorney, who lives in Enfield. She owns Shawmut Environmental, LLC, a business that provides environment and safety consulting services to manufacturing and service companies. She holds bachelor's degrees from Rutgers University in Chemical Engineering and Chemistry. She has been involved with nonprofit organizations in Boston for over 30 years.

1 - Contributions ($127,855)
2 - Fundraising Events ($47,216)
3 - Membership ($26,000)
4 - Programs/Events ($112,315)
5 - Retail Sales ($27,249)
6 - Admission ($12,716)
7 - Rent ($26,175)
8 - PPP Loan ($60,900)

FY2020 Restricted Gifts and Grants ($292,500)

1 - Programs/Events ($307,419)
2 - Management/General ($77,653)
3 - Fundraising ($44,406)
4 - PPP Loan ($60,900)

FY2020 Expenses - Restricted Gifts and Grants ($289,500)
The members and friends of Enfield Shaker Museum support all aspects of museum operations with their unrestricted gifts. If you are among the group of donors who contributed to our support this year - thank you, thank you, thank you!!
Remarks by Dr. Shirley Wajda, Executive Director (Continued from page 4)

Again, as a historian, I have faith in the power of historical inquiry to engage individuals in understanding the complexities of the past to make sense of the present. We need not lecture or preach; the Shakers, through their very existence, teach calmly and effectively. In the past year I have seen firsthand how the Shakers’ commitment to their faith, to pacifism, and to equality have provided both solace and strength to, as well as life lessons for our visitors. In this time of despair, the Museum has provided many means of repair.

I have also seen how the Museum’s expanding presence continues to build a larger community. At times I joke that we are, every day, “making more museum,” visible in the active restoration of the site’s built environment, our increasing reach through collections digitization and virtual teaching, our engagement with new audiences through social media. Yet we’ve a firm commitment to research and collegiality through such successful events as the Spring Shaker Forum and our many workshops, specialty tours, and programs.

Enfield Shaker Museum is already a center of a community, one it has built in person and now, on-line. The task before us this year, as we emerge from the pandemic, is to continue to listen and to respond, effectively and enthusiastically, to what this growing community needs and wants.

I believe the pandemic has revealed more of our strengths than anything else, the most important of which, of course, are our members. We simply could not do what we do without you. Thank you.

Enfield Shaker Hot Maple Sauce

A new feature of the Enfield Shaker Museum website is a section on recipes known to have been prepared by the Enfield Shakers. We are very fortunate to have the assistance of Museum volunteers Nan Munsey, Karen, Wolk, Peggy Mitchell, and Sue Jukosky to kitchen-test the recipes for us.

**UPDATED RECIPE**

1 cup (340 grams) New Hampshire maple syrup*
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1/4 cup (60 grams) heavy cream
1/4 teaspoon sea or kosher salt
1/4 cup (29 grams) chopped toasted walnuts or pecans

You will need a candy or instant-read thermometer.**

We suggest using maple syrup because it is easier to find than maple sugar. Boil the maple syrup in a saucepan 1 cup. Delicious served warm on vanilla ice cream. Makes about 1 cup.

**To make the syrup without a candy thermometer, place a bowl of very cold water next to the stove and test with droplets of hot syrup in the cold water. It is ready when it forms thin threads, about 9 minutes.

*Life is always better when you use maple syrup harvested and bottled in New Hampshire!

For more recipes see [shakermuseum/shakerstudies.org](http://shakermuseum/shakerstudies.org)

Heads Up!

Ten years ago, we could not imagine how much we would be accomplishing—or need to accomplish—to preserve this national treasure, to welcome visitors, to survive a recession and now, to outpace the pandemic. Especially in this last year we have been able to complete overdue preservation projects, to go online with our programming, and to digitize our collections.

Ten years ago was the last time we raised membership rates. We know that the pandemic has hit many hard. We are so grateful to all who supported us with memberships last year, despite our state-mandated closure and, once we again opened, our socially distanced programming. But we must make the difficult decision of raising our membership rates beginning April 1, 2021.

If you would like to renew your membership at the current rates, we ask that you do so before that date.

The new Member rates will be:

- **Individual** - $50
- **Family** - $75
- **Dual** - $60
- **Sponsor** - $125

All other rates will remain the same. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Museum at (603) 632-4346, or email us at info@shakermuseum.org.

Thank you, most sincerely, for your support.
2021 Archaeological Field School

Since 2015, Enfield Shaker Museum and Plymouth State University (PSU) have collaborated to sponsor an annual Shaker Archaeology Field School on the site of the former Enfield Shaker Village Church Family under the direction of Dr. David R. Starbuck (1949-2020). Dr. Starbuck was Professor of Anthropology at Plymouth State University (retired 2020) and an historical and industrial archaeologist specializing in the archaeology of America’s forts and battlefields, the archaeology of utopian societies (the Shakers), and the archaeology of medieval and post-medieval sites in Scotland. Participants in the field school have included PSU students and former students, Enfield Shaker Museum staff and volunteers, and amateur archaeologists who have previously worked with Dr. Starbuck.

We are actively planning for an Archaeological Field School in May or June 2021! The dig will be led by Hannah Dutton, M.A., Teaching Lecturer in Anthropology at PSU. Hannah has experience as a field worker, lab manager, and artifact curator at sites in New Hampshire, New York, Nicaragua, New Mexico, and Arizona. Enfield Shaker Museum is very excited to be working with her this year.

Before we begin to dig, we use a variety of non-invasive techniques to survey each field school site, including searching historic documents, maps, and utilizing aerial photography, magnetometry, thermal imaging, and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging, a form of 3D mapping)—all by drone. In addition, Enfield Shaker Museum is fortunate to have in its archive a professional site survey map that was prepared in 1917 for the Shakers themselves.

The only requirements for participating in the dig are a desire to learn about archaeological best practices, willingness to dig and get “dirty,” and vaccination for COVID-19. So get your vaccine ASAP and watch our website for more information.

The Little Gifts That Add Up

Your Shopping List:

As a registered nonprofit organization, Enfield Shaker Museum must run a lean operation. We’ve run a lot leaner this year, truth be told. We can always use—and we always appreciate—the following donations:

AmazonSmile
Did you know that the Museum has an Amazon Smile account? If you shop at smile.amazon.com, you may choose a charity (we hope it’s us! look for Chosen Vale, Inc. on their list of registered charities) and start generating donations by Amazon (and not from your bank account). AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of all eligible purchases to your favorite charity (again, we hope it’s us!).

Postage Stamps
Some letters cannot be emailed, and we have found that most of our Museum friends prefer snail mail. A booklet or roll of first-class stamps helps us and the United States Postal Service!

Copy Paper
Laser-printer-friendly white copy paper, that is. A ream of 8 ½” x 11” goes a long way.

Address Labels
Avery 5160 is the size we use, but another brand’s label matching that size is just as welcome.

Paper Towels
The Great Stone Dwelling eats paper towels. Really. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with snacks in between. (Yet the building looks pretty fit for 180 years old.) We use environmentally friendly cloth as much as possible, but there are some cleaning tasks that require paper towels.

A light and portable Staples gift card helps, too, especially in emergencies when Museum staff realizes they forgot to tell everyone else they used the last of a necessary office supply. Thank you!