



# Enfield Shaker Museum

2023 Spring Shaker Forum

April 21 - 23, 2023

Enfield, NH

## **Welcome to the 2023 Spring Shaker Forum.**

Since the beginning of the field of Shaker Studies in the early-twentieth century, the discipline has evolved and become reinvigorated. Every year, we learn more about these fascinating people, their way of life, and the Society that they built. From its initial development in the world of antique and manuscript collecting to the most recent cutting-edge research, the world of Shaker Studies remains vibrant.

The primary goal of the Shaker Forum is to bring together a group of researchers and enthusiasts with similar passion for the Shakers to share the latest information. Though we may not have the same research interests or visions of Shaker historiography, we all retain a belief that the Shakers can inform and inspire new ways of thinking even in the twenty-first century.

Whether you are a presenter or attendee, your participation allows for sharing of research, exploration of new interests, and an opportunity to engage in lively discussion.

It is the Museum's intention to provide a platform for Shaker scholars and enthusiasts to be part of a significant educational endeavor focusing on the fascinating history and culture of the Shakers. Your participation provides depth and meaning to our existence as a Museum and place of learning.

We hope that you find this weekend to be informative, thought provoking and thoroughly enjoyable!

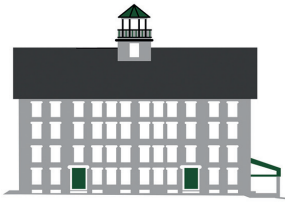
**The Enfield Shaker Museum is an educational institution dedicated to interpreting and preserving the history of the Shakers of Enfield, NH.**

# At-a-Glance Schedule

## Enfield Shaker Museum

### 2023 Spring Shaker Forum

Amy	Dining Room	Meeting Room	Gift Shop Cafe
<b>Friday, April 21</b>			
1:00 - 2:00 pm			Registration
2:00 - 3:00 pm		Exhibit Opening - Gallery Talk - <b>Mary Ann Haagen</b>	
3:00 - 4:00 pm		Picturing the Shakers as Handicraft Workers in the 19th century - <b>Robert Emlen</b>	
4:00 - 4:15 pm		Break	
4:15 - 5:15 pm		How Father Joseph Emerged as the Leader of the Shakers: A Closer Look at the 1780s and Beyond - <b>Stephen Paterwic</b>	
5:15 - 6:00 pm		Welcome Reception	
6:00 - 7:30 pm	Dinner		
7:30 pm		Keynote: Exciting Opportunities That Lie Ahead for the Shakers in Maine - <b>Michael Graham</b>	
<b>Saturday, April 22</b>			
8:00 - 8:45 am	Breakfast		
9:00 - 10:00 am		Wandering Star: The Use and Abuse of Richard McNemar - <b>Christian Goodwillie</b>	
10:00 - 11:00 am		Mapping Sister Mary Hazard's 1856 Journey to the "Eastern Societies of Believers" - <b>Sara Amy Leach</b>	
11:00 - 11:15 am		Break	
11:15 am - 12:15 pm		Mapping the Shaker Garden of Eden - <b>Douglas Winiarski</b>	
12:15 - 1:15 pm	Lunch		
1:15 - 2:15 pm		"Fall on the rock": Excavating a Shaker Spiritual Motif - <b>Carol Medlicott</b>	
2:15 - 3:15 pm		Mother Ann Lee, Spiritual Evolutionary: a Consciousness-Based Psychological Approach - <b>Susan Curtiss</b>	
3:15 - 3:30 pm		Break	
3:30 - 5:00 pm		Sharing What We Have Learned - Conversation Facilitator - <b>Nancy Lee</b> Shaker Book Signing - Meeting Room	
5:00 - 6:00 pm		Cocktail Hour	
6:00 - 7:30 pm	Dinner		
7:30 pm		Keynote: "Shaker Fancy Goods: Shaker Survival Through Sisterhood and Craft" - <b>Catherine Goldring</b>	
<b>Sunday, April 23</b>			
8:00 - 8:45 am	Breakfast		
9:00 - 10:00 am		Searching for Sister Mary: The Legacy of Pleasant Hill's Last Shaker - <b>Rebecca Soules</b>	
10:00 - 11:00 am		The Grand Survivor: the Harvard Church Family's "New Office" of 1839-40 - <b>Ned Quist</b>	
11:15 - 11:45 am		Shaker Songs & Readings - <b>Mary Ann Haagen &amp; Kevin Siegfried</b>	



# Schedule of Events Enfield Shaker Museum 2023 Spring Shaker Forum April 21 - 23, 2023

## Friday, April 21

**1:00 - 2:00 pm Registration, *Gift Shop***

**2:00 - 3:00 pm** “Faithful Stewards - Enfield Shaker Trustees (1795 - 1904)” Gallery Talk, **Mary Ann Haagen**  
This exhibition examines the contributions of three Shaker brothers who served as Trustees of Enfield’s Church Family. Each man faced challenges unique to his generation. But all three shared a selfless devotion their faith, and to the trust placed in them.

**3:00 - 4:00 pm** “Hands to Work”, **Robert Emlen**

In the last decades of the nineteenth century commercial photographers began to picture the Shakers engaged in craft production and the manual work of domestic tasks. This paper will explore how the popular illustrations of Shaker worship that had previously formed the public perception of the Shakers were replaced by new stereotypical images that defined the Shakers as exemplars of hand craftsmanship.

**4:15 - 5:15 pm** How Father Joseph Emerged as the Leader of the Shakers: A Closer Look at the 1780s and Beyond, **Stephen Paterwic**

Father Joseph Meacham (1742-1796) took advantage of favorable circumstances to gain power and made every effort to make New Lebanon the “Center of Union.” This paper will question various assumptions and, though primarily about Father Joseph, will also challenge a long held belief about Ruth Landon. How we perceive early Shaker history may need a new perspective that is closer to the reality of the times and human nature.

**5:15 - 6:00 pm Welcome Reception, *Meeting Room***

**6:00 - 7:30 pm Dinner, *Dining Room***

**7:30 pm Keynote Presentation:** Exciting Opportunities that Lie Ahead for the Shakers in Maine, **Michael Graham**

## Saturday, April 22

**8:00 - 8:45 am Breakfast, *Dining Room***

**9:00 - 10:00 am** Wandering Star: The Use and Abuse of Richard McNemar, **Christian Goodwillie**

Richard McNemar was the pivotal figure in the growth of Shakerism west of the Appalachians. The Ministry dispatched him to trouble spots throughout OH, KY, and IN. Although he was firmly yoked in Mother’s gospel, and amongst its greatest apostles, his role as special emissary led him out of the valley of humiliation. This paper will trace the tortuous course that led to McNemar’s public humiliation, expulsion, redemption, and death.

**10:00 - 11:00 am** Mapping Sister Mary Hazard’s 1856 Journey to the “Eastern Societies of Believers”, **Sara Amy Leach**

In August 1856, a wagon carrying six Shakers departed from New Lebanon, NY, with the purpose of observing life at six other “eastern Societies of Believers,” to advise, teach, and share. Almost exactly 166 years after Mary and company struck out, navigator Gary Mason and Sara Leach embarked on a research-road trip to trace their path. This paper will document the terrestrial journey, an estimated 700-750 miles, that Jane Blanchard, Sally Bushnell, Benjamin Gates, Mary Hazard, Dwight Hinkley, and Leah Taylor made through New England.

**11:15 am - 12:15 pm** Mapping the Shaker Garden of Eden, **Douglas Winiarski**

A unique survey conducted by Shaker elder Benjamin Seth Youngs in May 1842 resulted in the mapping of the Watervliet, NY Shaker's invisible spirit city named Wisdom's Valley. This presentation will show the process used to reconstruct these boundaries and physically locate this spirit city using Geographic Information System (GIS) applications.

**12:15 - 1:15 pm Lunch**, *Dining Room*

**1:15 - 2:15 pm** "Fall on the rock": Excavating a Shaker Spiritual Motif, **Carol Medlicott**

The phrase "fall on the rock" reverberates through Shaker song and discourse, exemplified by an 1840s gift song long attributed to New Lebanon that begins, "Fall on the rock and be ye broken." However, evidence points to an earlier western origin of the song that remains popular among the contemporary Shakers. Further excavation reveals the many interesting ways that rock and stone have been employed in Shaker spiritual metaphor.

**2:15 - 3:15 pm** Mother Ann Lee, Spiritual Evolutionary: A Consciousness-based Psychological Approach, **Susan Curtiss**

The teachings of Mother Ann, when examined within the consciousness-based psychological perspective, reveal that her spiritual revelations are a contribution to the evolution of our understanding of human psychology in significant ways. The aspects of her teaching aligned with consciousness-based psychology will be presented, and her spiritual stature validated and related to our present transformative spiritual evolution.

**3:15 - 3:30 pm Break**

**3:30 - 5:00 pm** Sharing What We Have Learned - A Conversation, Facilitator - **Nancy Lee**

Book Signing - Bring your favorite Shaker books or buy some new ones in the Gift Shop and have them signed.

**5:00 - 6:00 pm Welcome Reception**, *Meeting Room*

**6:00 - 7:30 pm Dinner**, *Dining Room*

**7:30 pm Keynote Presentation:** "Shaker Fancy Goods: Shaker Survival Through Sisterhood and Craft", **Catherine Goldring**

## **Sunday, April 23**

**8:00 - 8:45 am Breakfast**, *Dining Room*

**9:00 - 10:00 am** Searching for Sister Mary: The Legacy of Pleasant Hill's Last Shaker, **Rebecca Soules**

In 1923, the death of Sister Mary Settles was headline news across Kentucky. Understanding how Sister Mary portrayed herself as the unofficial spokeswoman of the Pleasant Hill Shakers, as well as how later scholars, journalists, and Shaker enthusiasts remembered her after death, is key to exploring Pleasant Hill's unique history as a western Shaker community and the divergent paths it sometimes took from eastern Shakerism.

**10:00 - 11:00 am** The Grand Survivor: the Harvard Church Family's "New Office", **Ned Quist**

This presentation outlines the story of the design and construction of the "New Office" and details subsequent changes made by the Shakers. While accounts exist of the construction of other Shaker buildings, it is likely that few, if any, privately owned Shaker buildings in their modern state can be linked as closely to the original words and intentions of the Shaker builders designers and users.

**11:15 - 11:45 am** Shaker Songs and Readings, Song Leaders - **Mary Ann Haagen and Kevin Siegfried**

We will close the Forum with a traditional Shaker Sing. Come and sing (all levels of singers welcome) or come and just listen. Music provided.

## 2023 Spring Shaker Forum Readers

**Jane Crosthwaite** is a Professor Emeritus of Religion at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. Throughout a more than thirty-year career, Jane taught on a variety of subjects including the role of women in the history of American religion. Her Shaker research has been largely focused on the period known as the Era of Manifestations. Jane has published numerous works on Shaker history including *Shaker Visions of the Divine: Essays on their Sacred Art and Scripture*.

**Emily Rowe** grew up in New Hampshire, her interest in the Shakers began on a fourth-grade field trip to Canterbury. She attended Hampshire College in western Massachusetts and had the good fortune of taking Jane Crosthwaite's Shaker Seminar through Mount Holyoke College. She is currently the circulation and communications manager for *Northern Woodlands* magazine in Lyme, New Hampshire. She is a member of the Enfield Shaker Museum Board of Trustees.

**Philip Zea** After serving for several years as Curator of Furniture at Colonial Williamsburg, Phil became President of Historic Deerfield in 2003. He has recently retired and we welcome him back to the Upper Valley where he is hard at work on a history of Historic Deerfield.

## 2023 Spring Shaker Forum Keynote Speakers

**Michael Graham**, Director of the Museum and Library at the United Society of Shakers in Sabbathday Lake, Maine. Along with Brother Arnold Hadd, Michael has been at the forefront of planning, and raising funds to insure that Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village continues to be a vital center for engagement with Shakerism- past, present and future.

**Catherine Goldring** does not claim to be a Shaker scholar, but a Shaker enthusiast. Years ago she noticed that there was not a book dedicated to the Shaker Sister's fancy goods industry. Years later after delving into Shaker records and journals and consulting scholars; writing a book became an obsession and she was on a mission to give the Sisters the credit they deserved. During her years as an antique dealer she met Nancy Joselyn, who helped inspire her appreciation for the Shaker sisters and their fancy goods.

## 2023 Spring Shaker Forum Presenters

**Susan Curtiss** is a counseling psychologist in private clinical practice specializing in trauma with adults. Susan does research and development of theory and practice in integral yoga psychology and the application of Consciousness-based Psychology to the spiritual teachings and practices of the Shakers. She has contributed articles on her research to various scholarly publications. She is a member of the Boston Area Shaker Study Group and is working with Roben Campbell on the study of Harvard Shaker Journals.

**Robert Emlen** is a Visiting Scholar in American Studies at Brown University. For over twenty years, Rob was the University Curator and Senior Lecturer in American Studies at Brown University in Providence, RI. Rob's many publications focus on how our perceptions of the Shakers are shaped by imagery created within the community, and by illustrators, artists and photographers whose work appeared in print media.

**Christian Goodwillie** is the Director and Curator of Special Collections and Archives at the Burke Library, Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. In addition, he is an Associate Editor of the Richard W. Couper Press. Christian has published several books including *Shaker Autobiographies, Biographies, and Testimonies*. He is starting to rival Frederick Evans for the most entries in a Shaker bibliography. His most recent book is a monumental biography of a towering *Shaker, Richard McNemar: Frontier Heretic and Shaker Apostle*.

**Mary Ann Haagen and Kevin Siegfried** share a love of Shaker music and a passion for sharing it with others. Mary Ann is a volunteer at the Enfield Shaker Museum and a visiting scholar in the music department at Dartmouth College. Kevin teaches at the Boston Conservatory at Berkley and has published numerous choral arrangements of Shaker music with Schirmer Music Publishers.

**Sarah Amy Leach** has spent the last 20+ years as Senior Historian at the National Cemetery Administration (US Department of Veterans Affairs). In addition, she spent 16 years as Historian/Project Leader for the Historic American Buildings Survey (National Park Service). Her career in historic preservation and public history intersects with journalism and a love of writing, telling the story of places, people, and events for popular and academic audiences. Sara Amy has an extensive list of published articles on history and historic preservation.

**Nancy Lee** is Senior Strategic Analyst in the Research and Prospect Management group at Dartmouth College. From 2004-2016, Nancy managed the undergraduate writing program in the Questrom School of Business at Boston University. Prior to working in higher education, Nancy earned a Masters degree from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture, a program founded by Henry Francis DuPont to train America's museum curators. She also spent a summer as an Historic Deerfield Fellow and directed a history museum on Cape Cod.

**Carol Medicott** is an Associate Professor in the Department of History & Geography at Northern Kentucky University. She also serves as Interpretive Consultant at Pleasant Hill Shaker Village, KY. In addition, Carol has been the Editor-in-Chief of the *Communal Societies*, Journal of Communal Studies Association. She is the author of four Shaker history including *Issachar Bates: A Shaker's Journey*. She is currently serving as a member of the Enfield Shaker Museum Board of Trustees.

**Stephen Paterwic** has been researching the Shakers since 1967. Stephen shares his love of the Shakers through his research, lectures, articles and collaborations. *His Historical Dictionary of the Shakers* and *The Shakers of Enfield, Connecticut* are only two of his many important publications in the field of Shaker Studies. Currently, he serves as an overseer at Hancock Shaker Village and as a trustee of Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village.

**Ned Quist** is a retired academic librarian who served as an Associate University Librarian for Research and Outreach for Brown University from 2011 – 2018. Prior to that, he was the Music Librarian at the Orwig Music Library at Brown University from 2001 – 2011 and the Head Librarian at the Peabody Conservator of Music at Johns Hopkins University from 1976 – 2001. Currently, he is an independent researcher working on in the field of Shaker Studies with a particular focus on the Harvard community, and Shaker mills, wherever found.

**Rebecca Soules** is the Curator of Collections at Pleasant Hill Shaker Village in Kentucky. Before moving south Rebecca was Interpretation Manager and Educator at Canterbury Shaker Village. Rebecca received a Master of Arts in Public Humanities from Brown University. As an undergraduate, she was awarded the American Civilization Senior Thesis Prize for her work, "Being Shaker in the Twentieth Century". She has also participated in several public history projects including those on the Annmary Brown Memorial in Providence, RI and the Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery in Coos Bay, OR.

**Douglas Winiarski** is a Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Richmond where he has worked for more than twenty years. In addition, he serves as a peer reviewer for the *New England Quarterly*, Oxford University Press, among others. He has served as a consultant for Pleasant Hill Shaker Village, KY. Doug has an impressive list of publications, awards, grants, and appointments in the field of religious studies.

# SAVE THE DATE

**Shaker Collectors Weekend**

**August 5 - August 7, 2023**

**B.Y.O.B.**

(Bring Your Own Box)

**Shaker wooden boxes of all  
shapes and sizes are welcome!**

**Master Classes**

**Special Tours**

**Pop-Up Exhibits**

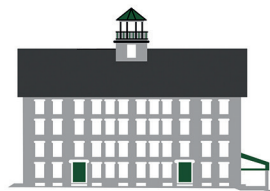
**Enfield Shaker Museum**

**Enfield, New Hampshire**

**Details available soon!**



Stack of painted Shaker oval boxes.  
Image courtesy of JKRussell Antiques.



**Enfield Shaker Museum**

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[shakermuseum.org](http://shakermuseum.org)