

# The Friends' Quarterly

## *Newsletter of the Enfield Shaker Museum*

Sharing history and hospitality



Vol. XXXII No. 1  
Winter 2022

### UPCOMING EVENTS

For more details, visit our website at  
[shakermuseum.org](http://shakermuseum.org)

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| May 21    | <b>Museum Season Opening</b>               |
| May 24    | <b>Weather-Wise Book Discussion</b>        |
| June 7-8  | <b>NH Gives Online</b>                     |
| June 11   | <b>Worldwide Knit In Public Day</b>        |
| June 11   | <b>Weather-Wise Exhibit Opening</b>        |
| Jun 11-12 | <b>Oval Box Making Workshop</b>            |
| Jun 13-14 | <b>Shaker Oval Carrier Making Workshop</b> |
| Jun 15-16 | <b>Shaker Style Serving Tray Workshop</b>  |
| Jun 17-18 | <b>Oval Box Making Workshop</b>            |
| Aug 12-14 | <b>Shaker Collectors Weekend</b>           |
| Sept 10   | <b>Harvest Festival</b>                    |
| Oct 9     | <b>Cider and Cheese Festival</b>           |

A publication of Enfield Shaker Museum  
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## Each Containing But Three Colors

by Michael O'Connor, Curator

The Enfield Shakers, like their rural non-Shaker neighbors, had a long tradition of skill in the textile arts. In the subsistence economy of early New England, rural families – Shakers and the World's People alike – used the labor of their family and the resources of the farm to provide food, clothing, and shelter for their basic survival. Home textile production was common in early rural New England households, and required great investment in time, energy, and resources. One of the first tangible effects of the burgeoning American industrial revolution was the availability of manufactured textiles, freeing the Shakers and neighbors alike from home textile production.

In an 1858 history of the Enfield Shaker community, the unknown author describes that transition, providing an excellent statement about the Sisters' labor and its importance to the community's success. In a chapter enumerating the Enfield Shakers' trades practiced for sale to the World, the author highlights the diversity of skills in the textile arts practice here.

For many years after the gathering, the sisters had but a few trades, except the house work, and made but very little sale work. But they manufactured all the cloth, both for their own and brethren's wear; cotton, linen, woolen, worsted, satin, in fact all but the cambric and muslin used for the sisters' caps and kerchiefs, and the silk of which but little was worn.

But as the manufacture of different fabrics, came to be more generally performed by machinery, and the cost consequently lessened, a change became necessary. Accordingly, instead of trying to manufacture everything to meet their own wants, attention was gradually turned to the manufacture of such goods as would find a ready sale in the market, and purchase such fabrics as were needed.

Some of the principal articles, to which attention has been given, are hosiery, which has been carried on to some extent for many years, and has been gradually increasing, and in 1856 a machine for knitting footings was purchased; and soon afterward the plan, of merely knitting in the heel and toe, came into vogue, since which the business has greatly increased. Large quantities of yarn have, also, been knit for other people on the machine; this was done by the yard. In 1857 another knitting machine, of a smaller size was purchased, as but one size can be knit on one machine.

Another branch of business that has been extensively carried on, for some years, is the knitting of drawers and shirts; at first by hand, but in 1840, the first knitting machine was bought, and soon afterwards another was made here. As the demand increased another machine was purchased, and finally two more were made, at the Second Family. One of the old ones having failed, we have four now in operation.

Another thing to which considerable attention has been paid, is the manufacture of flannel goods – drawers and shirts. This commenced in 18?? and has been gradually increasing in importance. The first sewing machine was purchased in 1850, since which we have had several different kinds. We have at present five in operation, three of which are Wilsons.

Continued on page 2.

**Each Containing But Three Colors** *Continued from page 1*

Many trades, both men’s and women’s, were practiced for use within the community but were not mentioned in this history. For example, seamstresses made the clothing for the sisters, and tailors for the brothers, but they are not listed because it was not done for sale to the World. So, the diversity of sisters’ textile work is even greater than listed by our anonymous author.

In the nineteenth century, rug making in the home was often a recycling project, where mill ends, scraps, and worn textiles could be remade into useful articles. With all the textile work practiced here, there was likely no shortage of scraps for rugs or sisters with the skills to make them. Although we have no evidence that the Enfield Shakers sold rugs, it is clear that they made them for use at home. Former Enfield Shaker Hervey Elkins, who wrote a book entitled *15 Years in the Senior order of Shakers* in 1853 (soon after he left the community), provides evidence of such use.

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; one or two writing tables or desks; one looking glass, not exceeding 18 inches in length, set in a plain mahogany frame; an elegant but plain stove; two lamps; one candle stick, and a smoker or tin funnel to convey to the chimney the smoke and gas evolved from the lights; bedsteads painted green; coverlets of a mixed color, blue and white; carpets manufactured by themselves, and each containing but three colors. ...



*Rug Hooking at Enfield Shaker Village c. 1910*



*Hand-knit Shaker Confetti Shag Rug c. 1990*

community is also strengthened by the shared work. A unique sisterhood was formed among these women working together, and that shared labor is a part of the bond that united these women together into their unique, non-traditional family. The making of rugs is a perfect example of how they could use their labor, and the resources of the community, to extend comfort and warmth to each member of their communal family. And their skill was no doubt appreciated by all who had the good fortune to rest their feet on one of these rugs when rising on a cold winter’s morning.

Although Elkins states that the rugs contained but three colors each, the rugs in the Museum’s collection are much more vibrant. To see examples of each rug in the Museum’s collection, visit the Enfield Shaker Museum’s YouTube channel to watch the February 2022 edition of “From the Collection” (<https://youtu.be/glhKshKe1T8>) where historic photos and all our rugs are featured.

Certainly communistic societies survive economically by the freely given labor of each individual contributing to communal success. But the social fabric of the com-



*Hooked Enfield Shaker Rug c. 1880-1890*

**Recent Acquisitions**



Enfield Shaker Village had a robust medicinal industry, with products being made and sold at all three families. The Shaker Order of Physicians provided care for the Society’s members, and herbal medicine was an important part of their practice. These medicines were also offered for sale to the public where they found ready acceptance.

This bottle was for “Shaker Family Cough Syrup, Prepared in the United Society of Shakers, Enfield, N.H. By Dr. Jerub Dyer.”



This small birch work table has telescoping legs, a tray-top, four-drawer gallery, and a drawer which extends through the base and can be opened from the front or back of the piece.

In this drawer is a note written by Enfield Eldress Rosetta Cumings stating, “This table is sold to Mrs. W. S Bucklin...Paid Aug 25 – 1920. To remain here while we need to use.” The table remained in the Bucklin family until 2021 when it was purchased by the Museum.

## #EnfieldOnline

The Covid-19 pandemic may have introduced the concept and practice of “social distancing” but digital platforms such as Zoom, Facebook, and Instagram allowed all of us to overcome distance to interact. Where once we would meet across a table for coffee, we now met each other through our computers, coffee next to our elbows at our desks.

The Museum team necessarily pivoted from interpersonal tours, hands-on workshops, and lectures and our annual Shaker Forum to creating programming for online delivery. Early in the pandemic, and with the use of a handheld smartphone camera, Education Coordinator Kyle Sandler offered tours of several buildings and spaces on our historic site. Within a few months, Curator Michael O’Connor created what has now become a popular series entitled “From the Collection.” This series features in-depth investigations of artifacts in the Museum’s ever-growing collection. (One viewer has dubbed this series “The Michael Show,” and for good reason: Michael’s knowledge of the collection and Enfield



Shaker history is deep, his story-telling acumen clearly in evidence. “Shaker Lives, Shaker Stories” was then introduced, with the first episode featuring the research on Sister Rosetta Cummings by Mary Ann Haagen and Carolyn Smith.

In between, the Museum created three lecture series. “All at Home: A Taste of History” replaced in part our Cider and Cheese Festival, with expert talks on cheese, apples, pie, and bread. “Weather-Wise,” funded by New Hampshire Humanities, explored the relationship between weather and human culture with four speakers on the American Civil War, American art history, the meteorological history of the 1938 New England Hurricane, and the history of early American almanacs. Even our beloved Spring Shaker Forum was converted to a series of six fascinating talks. For many participants, it was both exciting and comforting to see familiar faces and names on their computer screens.

We are pleased that many of these programs are available on the Museum’s YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpDRI7ceCKJLKP7xgaVYBXQ>), so if you missed them live you can see them on your own schedule. And now these programs are televised on the local cable station, CATV!

For the last two years, Enfield Shaker Museum has offered an online course entitled “Shakers 101.” Created and superbly taught by the Museum’s Education Coordinator Kyle Sandler, this introductory course has quickly grown, both in the number of sessions and in the number of participants. As Kyle observes, how did a small group of religious dissidents called the United Society of Believers in Christ’s Second Appearing develop a unique approach to Protestant Christianity centered on celibacy, confession, and communalism? How did they grow from a small band of English immigrants into a religious order of over four thousand people living in communities from Maine to Kentucky?

For his efforts Kyle has richly earned kudos such as this one:

Just a short note to say what a superb job you have done in organizing and presenting the Shaker course. I have been in the post-secondary ed industry as a customer and provider for half a century and I can say without reservation I have seldom seen instruction of the quality you offer. You are clearly in command of the current scholarship and yet can organize and present it as a conversation between friends, without pretension in accessible plain language.



We are pleased to announce that we will be offering this course again next year, thanks to a multi-year grant by Bank of America.

We are always thinking about our online programming, especially because it allows the Museum to reach people who may never be able to visit Enfield. Too, the recorded videos have become a library of Shaker knowledge, usable by anyone who wishes to do so. What topics should we cover? Is it time to create “Shakers 102”? Other courses? What are the best times (of the year, of the week, of the day) to offer such programming? Please drop us a note at [info@shakermuseum.org](mailto:info@shakermuseum.org)!

## Museum Chairs Get New Seats

After 20+ years of use at meetings and events, our wonderful reproduction Shaker ladderback chairs needed some tender loving care. What better way to get them refurbished than offer a free class in chair seat weaving. Using one of our chairs and chair tape, participants learned the art and mystery of chair seat weaving and helped the Museum at the same time!



We still have 80 seats to go, if you would like to help, let us know.

*Museum volunteer Michele Moore weaves her first Shaker chair seat with wonderful results!*

## Mark Your Calendar! NH Gives Is Back

Enfield Shaker Museum is proud to be participating in NH Gives, the state's largest online day-of-giving event, hosted by New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits.

Funds donated to Enfield Shaker Museum are utilized to expand programming, enhance visitor experience, and preserve the buildings, grounds, and collections.

Online fundraisers like NH Gives are most successful when they reach large audiences, so we're asking for your help! Keep an eye out for posts and emails regarding Enfield Shaker Museum's NH Gives campaign and share them where you can with your friends and neighbors.

NH Gives begins at 5 P.M. on June 7th and concludes at 5 P.M. on June 8th. We appreciate all your support!



**Enfield Shaker Museum**  
**447 NH Route 4A ♦ Enfield, NH 03748**

Enfield Shaker Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational institution whose mission is to protect, enhance, and utilize its historical structures, landscape and Shaker cultural heritage. Gifts and donations are tax-deductible.

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|---|---|
| <p><b>Executive Director</b><br/>Shirley Wajda</p> <p><b>Curator</b><br/>Michael O'Connor</p> <p><b>Development Coordinator</b><br/>Nenia Ballard</p> <p><b>Board of Trustees:</b><br/>                 Carolyn Smith - President<br/>                 Carolyn Maloney - Vice-President<br/>                 Debra Ford - Treasurer<br/>                 Gail McPeck - Secretary<br/>                 Shirley Green<br/>                 Ed Hayman<br/>                 Ian Kipperman</p> | <p><b>Education Coordinator</b><br/>Kyle Sandler</p> <p><b>Historic Communicator</b><br/>Morgan Smith</p> <p><b>Historic Housekeeper</b><br/>Bonnie Lambert</p> <p>Nan Munsey<br/>                 George Pennacchi<br/>                 Becky Powell<br/>                 Nancy Rosenthal<br/>                 Michael Thomas<br/>                 Ardis Vaughan</p> |
|---|---|

## SAVE-THE-DATE

# 2022 Shaker Collectors Weekend

## August 12 - 14, 2022

**Weekend Highlights Include:**

- Hands-on Master Classes
- Panel Discussion on Approaches to Collecting
- Special Tours of Enfield Shaker Museum
- Meals and lodging in the Great Stone Dwelling

**Thanks to Our Sponsors:**

Dr. Marvin & Natalie Gliedman

*The Magazine Antiques*

John Keith Russell Antiques

To receive program details and registration information:  
 email - [education@shakermuseum](mailto:education@shakermuseum)  
 phone - 603-632-4346

## Museum Welcomes Development Coordinator Nenia Ballard



We are very pleased to announce the addition of Nenia Ballard to our staff as Development Coordinator. In this capacity, she is responsible for developing fundraising plans, maintaining donor relationships and securing new ones, and actively seeking corporate and business partners.

Nenia moved to New Hampshire from Massachusetts

after completing her bachelor's degree in English Literature at Framingham State University. She went on to earn a master's degree in English Literature and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. In 2021, she began pursuing a Ph.D. in Human Services. She considers herself a life-long learner and always looks forward to discovering new things.

Nenia has spent the past decade working as a police officer in the Upper Valley. She's excited to bring her passion for serving the community and her love of education and history to the Enfield Shaker Museum team.

Nenia lives in Canaan with her family and their chocolate labs. When she isn't cheering her children on from the stands of a baseball field or a hockey rink, she enjoys kayaking, reading, and writing. She's also published two novels for young adult readers.

Next time you are at the Museum make a point to introduce yourself and welcome her to the team!

## 2021 Online Fall Auction

Enfield Shaker Museum is pleased to announce that our 2021 Fall Auction was a success! From November 15 through November 30, 2021, more than 106 participants bid on 68 items and the Cause Within a Cause fundraising segment and raised over \$18,000.00 towards general operations, educational programs, and visitor experience infrastructure here at the Museum!

Kudos to the Auction Committee - **Shirley Green, Kathryn Jerome, Carolyn Maloney, Gail McPeck, Nan Munsey, Carolyn Smith, and Shirley Wajda.** We could not have had a successful auction without their effort and determination!

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported the Auction! Even just helping to spread the word about events like this one, in this world dependent on digital impressions, can make all the difference. Thanks also to our 62 business and individual item, gift certificate, and services donors, without whom we would have nothing to auction!

Special thanks to our event sponsors **Coldwell Banker Lifestyles - Gabbie Black, Vanessa Stone Real Estate, LLC, Ledyard Bank, and Mascoma Bank,** and to all of our Cause Within a Cause donors.



## Preservation Update: Great Stone Dwelling Brickwork Restoration

Jeremy Brown, restoration brick mason, has been hard at work this winter restoring Shaker brickwork in the Great Stone Dwelling basement.

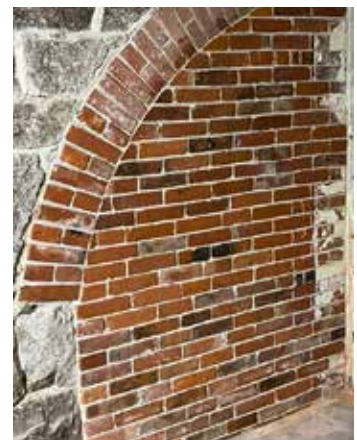
The 19th-century bricks used to restore the basement archway walls were salvaged from the East Brethren Shop during its restoration in 2017. The lime mortar was specially blended by Jeremy to match the texture, composition, and color of the original Shaker mortar.



*Original soft-fired brick before restoration.*



*Jeremy Brown at work restoring brick.*



*Archway brick wall after restoration.*

Damage to the original soft-fired brick was caused by rising damp as ground water seeped up from below the floor during its 180-year history. Jeremy carefully removed the crumbling bricks, matched the replacement bricks by size

and color to the open spaces, and mortared them in place. There is still work to be done but the basement is getting better all the time. Ask for a tour next time you are in town, we love showing it off!



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## Weather-Wise: 200 Years of Climate Change at Enfield Shaker Village

Join us on June 11, 2022 as we open our new exhibit *Weather-Wise: 200 Years of Climate Change at Enfield Shaker Village* featuring 12 hand-knit “Tempestry” banners.

The Tempestry Project was developed as a way to show climate change in a tangible fashion and has been used by many groups around the country (including the National Park Service) in a variety of settings. A Tempestry is a knit panel 46 stitches wide and 365

rows long (one row for each day of the year).

Each panel represents a particular year and the color of each row is determined by the high temperature for each day in that year. We have selected ten years between 1828 (the earliest year for



which we have reliable temperature data) and 1923 (the year the community closed). In addition we are knitting a banner for 1986 (the year the Museum opened) and 2021. These knit banners will be displayed with accompanying text and photo panels that talk about life in the Shaker Village during the years selected. We are using Shaker journals, letters, and photos, as well as historic newspaper articles and weather journals compiled at Dartmouth College beginning in 1828.

Thank you to our intrepid volunteer knitters: **Susan Brown, Kris Burnett, Leah Goat, Mary Ann Haagen, Luli Josephson, Sue Jukosky, Nan Munsey, Becky Powell, Carolyn Smith, Kristi Wilson, and Karen Wolk.**

## Meteor Shower Over Enfield in 1870



*The Illustrated London News*  
 16 Feb 1870, Page 120

### The Aurora Borealis.

Closely following the earthquake, we have been visited with an auroral display of an unusual and beautiful character. The exhibition, which has been widely observed throughout the country, has continued for several nights, but was most brilliant in this vicinity on Monday night and Tuesday morning. In some places it has been diversified by meteors, one of which is reported at Concord, N. H., on Sunday morning. This passed over the town of Enfield, from north-east to south-west, and is described as having been larger than a cart-wheel, and to have been of most vivid colors. It dropped into what is called Shaker Pond, and the spectators say that its sulphurous trail was visible for fifteen minutes after it fell. Reports from Cleveland and Cincinnati, dated Oct. 24, announce a splendid display of aurora at both cities, on the same morning, at 5 o'clock.