

Repository: Shaker Library Mount Lebanon

Title: Shaker Village Work Group Collection

Date: 1939-1987 [bulk 1950-1960]

Physical Description: 6 document cases, 1 ½ sized document case, 2 oversized boxes

Accession Number: <<<<<

Related Materials: <<<<<

Administrative Information

Provenance:

This collection primarily consists of the personal papers of Jerome Count. The collection was supplemented by donations from Robert Opdahl, Liz Weston, and other former villagers.

Processing History:

The Shaker Work Group Collection was organized and described by contract archivist Elizabeth Wood, Spring 2020.

Copyright Status:

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Access and Restrictions:

The Shaker Work Group Collection is open to research. Researchers must make an appointment with the Shaker Museum prior to visiting.

Preferred Citation:

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Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains personal papers from Jerome Count, including correspondence to the Shaker Museum Foundation and Hancock Shaker Community, Inc, research materials about the Shakers which were used for development of the Shaker Village Work Group experience, and manuscripts written by Jerome Count and others about the Shakers. The Shaker Village Work Group materials include correspondence, inventories, and pamphlets about the camp, photographs, oral history cassette tapes, a recording of performances of Shaker songs, and film of performances of Shaker dances.

Historical Context:

The Shaker Village Work Group, founded by Jerome and Sybil Count, was located at the Mount Lebanon Shaker Village. The camp, originally known as the Work Camp, operated from 1947 until 1973. The Shaker Village Work Group was a recreational summer camp which aimed to provide a fun work experience for urban teenagers that showcased the values of labor and self-sufficiency, while teaching them about the history of the Shakers and the Shaker movement. Participants learned to build Shaker crafts, helped to restore the Shaker buildings at the camp, and learned to perform historically accurate Shaker music and Shaker dances. After the death of Jerome Count in 1968, his wife Sybil took over until 1972. Bill and Cornelia Cotton served as operational directors until the camp closed in 1973. (“Shaker Village Work Group.” *Wikipedia*, 9 July 2020, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaker_Village_Work_Group).

Arrangement:

Series I: Jerome Count Personal Papers

1.0 Count Collection Acquisition Papers.

1.0 Acquisition Donor Envelopes.

Subseries A: Shaker Museum Foundation.

1.1 Correspondence 1951-1959

1.2 Correspondence 1960-1969

1.3 Newspaper Clippings 1956-1965 (featuring Shaker Museum Festival with Shaker Village Work Group).

1.4 Printed Materials 1956-1968

Subseries B: Hancock Shaker Community Inc.

1.5 Correspondence 1960-1968

1.6 Newspaper Clippings 1960-1971

1.7 Printed Materials 1960-1979

Subseries C: Correspondence

1.8 Andorn, Miriam Cramer Correspondence (includes letter to Shielgah Dille Re: Ms. Andorn). 1949

1.9 Berkshire Athenaeum Correspondence 1948

1.10 Collins, Sarah (Sister) Correspondence (from Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Silvermail). 1935

1.11 Cook, Herrick (Vice President of Pittsfield Bank) Correspondence (RE: Ms. Hall). 1952

- 1.12 Count, Sybil Correspondence (to and from). Undated
- 1.13 Diamond Salt Company Correspondence. 1946-1947
- 1.14 House Beautiful Magazine Correspondence. 1950
- 1.15 Hunt, Grace Correspondence. 1963-1964
- 1.16 Kermes, Constantine (Shaker Artist) Correspondence. 1954
- 1.16 Library of Congress – Correspondence. 1958
- 1.17 Melcher, Marguerite F. Correspondence (includes letter from Clarice Cau Re: Ms. Melcher). 1949-1952
- 1.18 National Gallery of Art Correspondence. 1947-1952
- 1.19 New York State Museum Correspondence. 1960-1962
- 1.20 Weeks, Estelle Correspondence. 1946-1947
- 1.21 Winship, Ella (Sister) Correspondence. 1939
- 1.22 Collected Correspondence (Re: Books/Articles Requested for Research).
- 1.23 Collected Correspondence (Re: Furniture Orders)
- 1.24 Collected Correspondence (Re: Historical Landmark Status)
- 1.25 Collected Correspondence (Re: Shakers)

Series II: Jerome Count Research Materials

Subseries A: Research Notes

- 2.1 Research File
- 2.2 Research Card Catalog
- 2.3 Shaker Costume Research (with Ellen J. Count) Correspondence and Sketches.
- 2.4 Shaker Crafts/Paint Recreations
- 2.5 Shaker Dance Research 1954-1955
- 2.6. Shaker Music (Photocopy of “Tho life’s morn rose bright and cloudless” removed from collection. Original located in the Robert and Viola Opdahl Collection)
- 2.7 Shaker Museum Activities (1961)

- 2.8 Shaker Recipes 1954-1986
- 2.9 Shaker Reproductions (Sketches and Measurements)
- 2.10 Shaker Shocking Machine
- 2.11 Shaker Spirit Drawings (Reproductions) (undated)
- OV-1 Shaker Spirit Drawing – Sister Sally Lomise 1847
(reproduction).
- 2.12 Sketches - Maps of Property, Furniture, and Craft Boxes.
- 2.13 South Family Research

Subseries B: Collected Newspaper Clippings

- 3.1 Andrews, Dr. Edward Deming (1940-1953).
- 3.2 Connecticut Shakers (undated).
- 3.3 Crusader for Christ (1954).
- 3.4 Darrow School (1939).
- 3.5 General Research (No direct Shaker corrections) (1954- 1982).
- 3.6 General Shaker History (1976-1987).
- 3.7 Hancock Shakers (1953-1965).
- 3.8 “The Manifesto” – Excerpts, transcribed. (1949).
- 3.9 Mount Lebanon/New Lebanon Shakers (1936-1965).
- 3.10 Museum Exhibits (1969-1981).
- 3.11 North Family (1913-1947).
- 3.12 Pennsylvania Shakers (1949).
- 3.13 Pleasant, KY Shakers (1980-1984).
- 3.14 Recipes (1954-1986).
- 3.15 Sabbathday Lake Shakers (1974- 1986).
- 3.16 Shaker Village Canterbury (undated).

Subseries C: Publications

- 3.17 Coffman, Edward – “The Shakers 1807-1922.” (1949?)
- 3.18 Johnson, Clifton – “The passing of the Shakers.” (1934)

3.19 Pillow, William – “His life among the Shakers.” (Ed. Viola Woodruff Opdahl). (1956).

3.20 The World of Shaker “The Shaker Messenger.”

Subseries D: Materials on Shaker Furniture and Goods

3.21 Advertisements

3.22 Articles

3.23 Catalogs – Crafts

3.24 Catalogs – Reproduction Furniture

3.25 Guild of Shaker Crafts (catalog and correspondence).

3.26 Maine Antique Digest 1982-1984

3.27 Publications

Series III: Manuscripts

4.1 Arnolds, Dan. “Tis a Gift to be Simple.” (1965).

4.2 Clark, Faith. “Shaker Service.” (1961-1962).

4.3 Count, Jerome. “Shakers and their Music.” (undated).

4.4 Count, Jerome. “Shaker Restoration.” (undated).

4.5 Count, Jerome. “Teen-agers and the Shakers.” (undated).

4.6 Fink, Arthur J. “Utopian Experiments in 19th Cent. America.” (1964).

4.7 Gaines, Linda. “Economic Aspects of the Shakers.” (1955).

4.8 Lazes, Peter. “The Shakers.” (1961).

4.9 Opdahl, Robert C. “Shaker Symbolic Music.” (undated).

4.10 Rensselaer County Junior Museum. “The Shakers.” (1957-1958).

4.11 Unknown author. “Hands to work and hearts to God.”

4.12 Unknown author. “The Lebanon Shakers 1780-1929.”

4.13 Wallace, Dan “Shakers: A Precedent.”

4.14 Weitzman, Bernard “Biographical Sketch of F. W. Evans.”

Series IV: Shaker Village Work Group Materials

Subseries A: Shaker Village Work Group Papers.

- 5.1 Correspondence
- 5.2 Field Trip Research File (1949-1960).
- 5.3 Inventory – Shaker Items.
- 5.4 Museum Display Tags.
- 5.5 Music (song listing, concert program).
- 5.6 Music “Shaker Music Lives Again.” Pamphlet.
- 5.7 Newspaper Articles on Shaker Village Work Group
- 5.8 Pamphlets.
- OV-1 Scrapbook #1 (collected materials about Shaker furniture.
- OV-1 Scrapbook #2 (collected materials about Shaker furniture, dress, and food).
- OV-1 Poster – “Sweet Corn” Shaker Village Work Group.
- 5.9 Roster (donated by Frank Proschan).

Subseries B: Shaker Village Work Group A/V Materials

- 6.1 Belden, Brother Ricardo Photographs (001).
- 6.2 Center House – Negative (002_a,b,c).
- 6.3 Count, Jerome Photographs (003)
- 6.4 Count, Sybil Photographs (2) (004-005)
- 6.5 Mt. Lebanon: Chair Shop, Wash House/Sister and Brother Workshop. Photographs (4) (006-008)
- 6.6 Mt. Lebanon: Shaker Village Photographs (7) (009-014)
- Flat File: Painting by P. Ross Teller, camper at Shaker Village Work Group in 1952 titled “Wilderness Journeys [of] Mother Ann Lee (May 1782-Sept 1783).
- OV-2 Research for Shaker ceremony – 1957 reel (sound)
- OV-2 Research tape for Shaker ceremony – 1957 reel (film).
- OV-2 Shaker Service: Aug 1965 (C.B.S). Dance. (film).

- 6.7 Shaker Village Work Group – Campers (6) (015-019)
- 6.8 Shaker Village Work Group - Furniture
(printed copies (2)) (020-021).
- 6.9 Shaker Village Work Group – Museum Festival 1958 (12 –
some printed copies) (022-034)
- OV-2 Shaker Village Work Group – Oral history interviews,
Shaker (song and dance) and school interview cassette
tape.
- OV-2 Shaker Village Work Group – Shaker songs, 1950,
cassette tape.
- OV-2 Shaker Village Work Group – Shaker songs, record.
- OV-2 Shaker Village Work Group Slides – Various 1951-1955. (4
boxes and a Ziploc bag).
- 6.10 South Family Mt. Lebanon – Dwelling House (2) (035)
- 6.11 Snow photographs at Hancock Shaker Village (23) (036-
059)
- 6.12 Unidentified people ((2) 1 photo copy). (060-061)

Subseries C: Shaker Village Work Group Publications:

- 7.1 Poetry Collection – SVWG - 1969
- 7.2 Recipes for Shakers – 1954
- 7.3 Shaker Desserts & Sweets - undated
- 7.4 Songs of the Shakers – 1956 (3 copies)
- 7.5 Songs of the Shakers – 1962 (4 copies)
- 7.6 Taproot – Shaker Village Folk Lore - 1961
- 7.7 Taproot – Shaker Village Folk Lore – 1963 (Liz Weston)
- 7.8 West Village: The Other – 1968 (donated by Frank Prosche)