

February 9, 1951

The Ford Foundation,  
Drake Hotel,  
New York City

Gentlemen:

The Shakers were one of the early American "Utopian" groups. They sought, with the aid of religion, to find a solution to social and economic problems. They did not succeed, of course, but for the greater part of the 19th Century, they helped to focus attention upon the problems. Most serious students of that time studied their way of life. Charles Dickens, for example, visited them upon his journey to this country. Horace Greeley studied their way of life and wrote about them, along with Walt Whitman, Tolstoy, Hawthorne and many other outstanding public figures.

The Shakers became great craftsmen in all media --wood, metal and textiles. Their buildings, their furniture, their inventions are masterpieces of design, skill, infinite patience and ingenuity. A strong influence upon the survival of the craft tradition in mass-production industry and the recent rise of contemporary industrial design can be traced to the Shakers and their great craft traditions.

We are seeking the aid of the Foundation in acquiring and setting up a

a portion of the original Shaker Village at New Lebanon, N. Y., as an operating example of early American industries.

There is one last portion of the original community, which is not already in private hands and still owned by the Shakers. It includes the authentic Shaker-built workshops, barns and communal dwellings, all in excellent state of preservation.

In our own project, which has been operating for the past five years, we have introduced to hundreds of teen-age boys and girls, the values of integrity of work and fine traditions of American craftsmanship. We would like to expand this influence by setting up the remaining portion of Shaker Village as a semi-public institution.

Sincerely yours,

Jerome Count,  
Director

Research References on the Shakers:  
THE ROOTS OF AMERICAN CULTURE, Constance Rourke  
SHAKER FURNITURE, Edward D. Andrews  
THE GREAT ADVENTURE, Marguerite Melcher  
COMMUNITY INDUSTRIES OF THE SHAKERS,  
Edward D. Andrews

*Shaker Records  
Smith Family*

August 5, 1949

Dear Yagie:

I got up the enclosed material as a possible basis for the article which you were planning to do to be published in the "Folklore" magazine. I don't know how close it comes to the kind of material you had in mind; but if you want anything additional, let me know.

I can supply the number of photographs including Eldress Sarah, Robert Wagan, entrance to the Sisters' Shop, oldest feature of Shaker Village, etc.

Sincerely,

Jerome Count

JC:mj

Enclosure

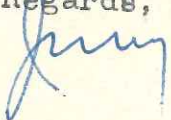
September 20th

Dear David:

Glad to hear that the film turned out "not bad." In order to wind up this project and get it in the file, once and for all, please write on the inside of this note, the specific songs that were used for each sequence, in the order that they were used for the film, and return this note to me. Then we don't have to try to remember --I believe they were taped, but tapes are somehow more perishable and subject to erasure than a list in our files.

I will forward your slides shortly. I asked Movie Mart to duplicate a number of them which we can use for orientation meetings.

Regards,



WILL BE FOUND IN MUSIC FILMS

ing

the clouds

Zion

be marching

rship Thee

aker Life

, use ONE, TWO, THREE STEPS etc.

1. HYMN THERE'S A CROWN

8- SHUFFLING MARCH

COME LIFE SHAKER  
LIFE

2. FAST MARCH  
a- LIVING SOULS  
b- THERE IS POWER

9 STANDING SONG  
COME TO ZION  
(A REPEAT)

STANDING SONG  
COME TO ZION

FOR SQUARE ORDER  
USE  
ONE TWO THREE STEPS

3. SLOW MARCH  
a LOOK UP THROUGH THE CLOUDS  
b- THE HUMBLE HEART

4. STANDING SONG IM ON MY WAY TO ZION

5. FAST MARCH LIVING SOULS (A REPEAT)

6. QUICK MARCH WHEN I COME TO WORSHIP THEE

SONGS FOR SHAKER DANCE FILM (MUSIC WILL BE FOUND IN MUSIC FILMS  
UNDER "SHAKER SONGS")

1. HYMN- THERE'S A CROWN
2. FAST MARCH
  - a. Living Souls let's be marching
  - b. There is Power
3. STANDING SONG - Come to Zion
4. SLOW MARCH
  - a. Look up through the clouds
  - b. The Humble Heart
5. STANDING SONG- I'M on my way to Zion
6. FAST MARCH - Living Souls let's be marching
7. QUICK MARCH - When I Come to Worship Thee
8. SHUFFLING MARCH - Come Life, Shaker Life
9. STANDING SONG - Come to Zion

FOR SQUARE ORDER (Not yet on film), use ONE, TWO, THREE STEPS etc.

Miss

August 23, 1950

Dear Mr. Beren:

Enclosed you will find <sup>900</sup> ~~three~~ prints of designs which have been produced here and which you may want to submit to the wall paper company you had in mind. The only thing we would ask would be that if any design is used, the margin carry the imprint "A Shaker Village design originated at Shaker Village Work Camp."

Sincerely yours,

Jerome Count

9/1/53

### Eldress Coolbroth, Oldest Shaker, Dies

NEW GLOUCESTER, Me., Sept. 1 (AP)—Eldress Harriett N. Coolbroth, at 89 the nation's oldest Shaker, died last night at the Sabbathday lake Shaker colony.

Born at Scarborough, she was educated at the Shaker school in Alfred. She was eldress and trustee of the Alfred colony until it joined the Sabbathday lake group in 1931.

The Shakers, a religious denomination, once were widespread. Now they have three colonies—one each in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Mass

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I was looking through the  
I came across this  
thought that you might

weather has been sweltering

here. The temperature hasn't gone  
out of the 90's for a few days now.  
Did you have a nice vacation after  
camp ended?

Camp certainly did go quickly this  
year. It ~~is~~ really doesn't seem that  
I ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> been there for 2 months. I  
want to thank you for the wonderful  
summer I had. I can't tell you  
how happy I am that I want back  
this summer. Have a wonderful

ch. M - Cal



Dear Jerry,

59

9/1/53

Tonight I was looking through the paper when I came across this article. I thought that you might be interested.

The weather has been sweltering here. The temperature hasn't gone out of the 90's for a few days now. Did you have a nice vacation after camp ended?

Camp certainly did go quickly this year. It ~~is~~ really doesn't seem that I ~~was~~ <sup>had</sup> been there for 2 months. I want to thank you for the wonderful summer I had. I can't tell you how happy I am that I want back this summer. Have a wonderful

winter and don't forget to keep me  
posted on Shaker Village News.  
Give Ellen <sup>+ Sib</sup> my love.

love  
Phyllis

May 2, 1964

Dear Sib & Jerry,

How are you? Good, I hope.

I found an article in an old newspaper about the Shakers in New Lebanon, and I thought I would pass it along to you. It is taken from the SUNDAY EXPRESS of Buffalo from Sunday, September 2, 1888. I would have sent the original, but it belongs in the town museum. I hope you can read the copy.

I had a job last summer. I worked in a factory in Buffalo. Did most of the odd jobs. It was interesting work. I think I'm going back again this summer.

As of right now, I want to enter Albany State in the fall of '65. But there is still another whole year to think about that.

I would like to thank you both for the opportunity of going to Shaker and for the many things I learned, many of which I'm just beginning to appreciate. A good many of the things I picked up during the summer have already been put to good use. I don't think I'm so culturally depraved now. Thanks again.

Shall close now,

Sincerely yours

Jerry

Jerry Reese

Ellicott Pk  
Orchard Park ny

Shaker Village Work Camp  
Pittsfield, Mass

Dear Sir

Will you please send me as soon as possible, a case of 12 oz or 14 oz jars Wild Blueberry Jam - either bill me or send C O D.

Very Truly Yours

Samuel Newirth

510 Windermere Ave

Interlaken,

Asbury Park  
New Jersey

Shaker  
Village

Made at the historic home of the  
Shakers at Mount Lebanon.

WILD BLUEBERRY JAM

contents - 8 oz. av.

Shaker Village Work Camp

A summer project for teen-agers.  
PITTSFIELD, MASS.

March 20, 1950

Dear Mr. Neuwirth:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting shipment of a case of Wild Blueberry Jam. However, this product is not sold commercially, being produced only during the summer when our group of teenagers is active at Shaker Village. The jam and other things they produce is sold by them at their co-operative store.

I am sure that our group will be flattered and pleased to hear that you liked their jam and wanted to place an order for more.

Yours very truly,

Jerome Count

SHAKER VILLAGE WORK GROUP

Dear Villagers:

[R-2987]

We are sending you this handbook which was published by the New York State Museum. It tells about the Shakers and the crafts and industries that formerly carried on at various Shaker communities, including the present site of the Work Group. You may keep it as your own reference copy. Throughout the book you will find photographs of Shaker dwellings and workshops, which are similar in style to those which you will find when you arrive at Shaker Village. Our portion of the former Mt. Lebanon or New Lebanon Shaker community was known as the "South Family."

Throughout this handbook you will also find pictures of Shaker devices and pieces of equipment which they used in their various activities and workshops. Many of these things are similar to those which are now used in our projects for reproducing Shaker antiques, such as the famous oval boxes which you will see pictured on page 100. Many pieces of equipment which are shown in this handbook are actually now at the Work Group on loan from the Department of Education, so that we can carry on our program of reproducing early-American Shaker crafts. One illustration is the extremely old hand weaving loom shown on page 101 of the handbook. Another photograph which will especially interest villagers will be found on page 106. This shows a display of Shaker chairs located in what was formerly the Chair Shop of our own community.

Villagers who have a special interest in photography will want to read about a famous photographer, the late William F. Winter, Jr., who specialized in Shaker subjects, page 132. A large number of his beautiful photographs of Shaker architecture, interior woodwork and other subjects have frequently been reproduced in many books and magazines. Villagers will want to take special note of the photographs on pages 114, 118 and 119. These show work of typical cabinets for which the Shakers have become so famous because of their meticulous craftsmanship and remarkably simple "modern" design--even though all of this cabinet work is a century or more old. These are typical of the cabinet work and built in woodwork which villagers will find in the dwellings and workshops when you arrive here this summer.

We hope that you will find this handbook a help in understanding why villagers have been restoring the Village, and preserving the culture and artifacts of the Shakers. In the past, Villagers have revived many Shaker crafts and industries, such as the production of oval boxes, growing and processing of herbs, hand weaving and many others. Villagers have also made recordings and published books of Shaker songs, and of cooking recipes, as a service to the public in seeing that this part of the Shaker culture is not lost to society. Many of these items are sold by Museums in various parts of the country, as the products of villagers, have become widely known for their craftsmanship and authenticity. We believe that your activities at Shaker Village will have much greater meaning to you, if you know more about the Shakers than we could tell you in the Shaker Village prospectus that you received from us before you enrolled. It might be a good idea for you to bring this book with you this summer, so that you can look up things that you want to know more about.

Sincerely yours,

*Sybil and Jerome*

Sybil and Jerome Count

SKI-Perm  
5/13 SKI folder  
Dittmann

AMHERST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

AMHERST - LEVERETT - PELHAM - SHUTESBURY

AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

KINGSLEY A. PERRY  
PRINCIPAL

WILLIAM H. MARDEN  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

ELEANOR C. FILLMORE  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

Shaker Village Ski Group  
Pittsfield, Mass

Dear Sirs:

I am contacting you in regard  
to your advertisement in the present issue  
of the Mass. Teacher.

I have been a teacher in Amherst  
for four years. and plan to remain  
here a few more years

I am experienced skier. I've been  
skiing since I was ten skill and my  
high school ski team in Laconia N.H. I  
skied and ski team in College, worked on  
Belknap ski patrol for three years, and  
this last season I filled in at Mt Tom.  
and did some coaching to a small  
group of teenage skiers there.

also while I was doing my student  
teaching I was assistant coach of  
skiing at Kenneth High in Conway  
N.H.

My wife also loves to ski and  
we get out as often as possible. We  
have taken groups from school  
here on ski weeks and have enjoyed  
every minute of it.

I am sure that if you're looking  
for some one with experience with  
this age level and a strong love  
for skiing. I'm sure that  
we can work something out.  
Yours very truly:

Richard Robinson