



The White Water Record

The newsletter of the Friends of White Water Shaker Village, Inc.

September, 2022 • Volume 9, Number 2

The 2022 **Annual Gathering**

by Linda Poynter

“The Dawn of White Water Shaker Village” was the theme of this year’s Annual Gathering which took place on April 23 this past spring. The Harrison Township Civic Center was the venue this year, due to the extended temporary closure of the Fernald Preserve Visitor Center. We were blessed with great weather and with 64 registered, the largest AG attendance in recent memory.

We were pleased to have David Budd present “White Water’s First Brothers and Sisters – The Agnews, Boggetts, and McKees.” David contacted us in April 2017 after discovering that Joseph and Miriam Agnew were his third-great grandparents. He and his wife Karen were able to join us just four days later at the 2017 Annual Gathering, at which time they became members of FWWSV.

During this year’s AG, David shared additional information that he had been able to discover about the Agnews and his extended family. We will cherish that memory of David’s presentation due to his unexpected passing this summer.

Following the luncheon, Rich Spence presented Brother Isaac’s impression of White Water in “Through the Eyes and Words of Isaac

N. Youngs: A Visit to White Water in 1834.” He shared some of Youngs’ journal entries and his hand-drawn map of White Water, the first known map of the village.

After the silent auction and raffles of Shaker-related items, everyone was invited to visit White Water to see the newly painted exteriors, restored dwelling windows and some interior woodwork painting.



Von Goeben Endowment Established

by Rich Spence

The Hedda Windisch von Goeben Endowment Fund has been created at the Dayton Foundation, using the distribution from a trust created by Hedda prior to her passing in October of 2021. We deeply appreciate Hedda’s generosity. Hedda had been a long and valued member of the Friends. If you would like to contribute to the von Goeben Endowment, a check can be sent to us with “von Goeben Endowment” written on the memo line. We will provide instructions in future newsletters for direct payments to Dayton Foundation for this fund.

We wish to thank Lois Madden for her most generous donation of the breakfast treats, sandwiches, chips and beverages, as well as Kay and Jennifer Bornemann for their delicious homemade salads and coffee.

Save the date for next year’s Annual Gathering – Saturday April 22, 2023. We will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Founding of White Water Shaker Village.

Save the dates

Sun. December 4, 2022 – Celebration of first meeting in the meeting house, 195 years ago.

Sat. April 22, 2023 – Annual Gathering and 200th anniversary of the founding of White Water.

Our mailing address has changed.

As of November 30, 2021 it is Friends of White Water Shaker Village; 11813 Oxford Road; Harrison OH 45030. This is the same as our physical location at the North Family Dwelling.

The Friends of White Water Shaker Village, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) corporation

Our website address is
<www.whitewatershakervillage.org>

Our telephone number is
513-738-5928
Messages are not monitored daily

Our mailing address is
Friends of White Water Shaker Village
11813 Oxford Road
Harrison OH 45030

Our email address is
<friendsofwwsv@gmail.com>

Look for us on Facebook. Search
for White Water Shaker Village.

Our Mission Statement

"To preserve, restore, and open the Shaker buildings and adjacent grounds known as the North Family of White Water Shaker Village; to collect and exhibit artifacts related to the site for the cultural enrichment of the public; to educate the public about this unique part of our nation's heritage."

Officers

President - Richard Spence
Vice President - Bruce Poynter
Recording Secretary - Karen Kilgo
Corresponding Secretary - Linda Poynter
Treasurer - Patricia Kluener

Board of Directors

Patrick Allen
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David Kilgo
Karen Kilgo
Patricia Kluener
Bruce Poynter
Linda Poynter
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Advisory Board

Lois Madden
Carol Medlicott

New Members

Greg Acus	Sponsor
Kathleen & Peter Carels	Family
John Landen	Individual
Mindy & Steve Rosen	Family
Diana Uhlman	Sponsor
Victoria Yuko	Individual

Renewing Members

Pat & Mary Allen	Sponsor
Marketa Anderson	Individual
Paula & Jim Arter	Family
Fred Bader	Individual
Martha Boice	White Water Society
Jennifer Bornemann	Individual
Gerald Branditz	Individual
Jack & Sue Buescher	Family
Deborah Hall & Michael Domino	Family
Patricia Gump	Sponsor
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Dorothy Jones	Sponsor
David & Karen Kilgo	Sponsor
George & Darlene Kohrman	Sponsor
Judie List Sweeney	Individual
Janet Lockwood	Sponsor
Fred Lutt	Family
Daryl Michael, Jr	Sponsor
Paul & Marjo Prinzing	Family
Larry & Bonnie Riffe	Family
William & Karla Roberts	Family
Thomas Queen	Individual
Mark Sandefur	Family
David Savage	Patron
Denny & Patty Schultz	Family
William Shea	Individual
Nancy Smith	Family
William & Sandra Soule	Sponsor
Douglas Tilghman	Individual
Antonio Torres	Individual
W. Hollis Weaver & Annette Miller	Sponsor

David & Joan Van Winkle	Patron
John & Martha Wells	Family
Elaine Wolter	Individual

Meeting House & Dwelling Exterior Painting Project

Paul & Marjo Prinzing	\$100
Martha Boice	\$1000

Meeting House Restoration

Contributions to \$99

Anne Jantzen
John Landen
Daryl Michael, Jr.
Larry & Bonnie Riffe
William & Karla Roberts
Deborah Schakel
Denny & Patty Schultz

Contributions of \$100

Jack & Sue Buescher
Beth & Bill Burwinkel
Paul & Marjo Prinzing
Paul Ruffing
W. Hollis Weaver & Annette Miller

Contributions of \$200

David & Karen Budd

Contributions of \$500

Janet Lockwood

Donors, Monetary

Contributions to \$99

Marketa Anderson
Jennifer Bornemann
Daryl Michael, Jr.
Larry & Bonnie Riffe
William & Karla Roberts
Deborah Schakel
Douglas Tilghman

Contributions of \$100-200

Jack & Sue Buescher
Michael & Christy Connelly
John Koonts
Harold & Kay McCollum
Rick Spencer & Amy Roberts
Diana Uhlman

Contributions of \$500 or more

Beth & Bill Burwinkel

Acquisition Fund

Memorial Contribution

Janet Lockwood

- In memory of Allen Bornemann

Recent Donations

A large number of farm related items, including wooden barrels, kettles, a buggy jack, single and double trees, horse tack, and two quilting frames

– Donated by Bob and Charlotte Menker

Straw bonnet – attributed to the Enfield, CT Shakers – and an old barn tin lantern

– Donated by Rich and Susy Spence

Niddy-noddy, yarn winding reel, flax wheel and a tape loom

– Donated by Jim and Caroline Innis

Shakers of Ohio by J. P McLean, first edition 1907

– Donated by Martha Boice

Grain seeder

– Donated by Diane Childs

Farm related items including a wash bowl, rolling pin, flail, mechanical corn sheller, ice clamps, and cow or goat collar
– Donated by Janet Lockwood

Cherry cradle with old original surface, attributed to Pleasant Hill Shaker Village
– Donated by Mike Anderson and Scott Hoover



In June, we received a letter from a Shaker collector offering to donate a trustee's desk, sewing desk, and blanket chest – all from different eastern Shaker communities. The collector lives in southern California and his gift was conditioned on the FWWSV

arranging for shipping. The offer was accepted by the board, shipping was arranged through an art shipper, and the

three pieces arrived at the village on August 23. We are grateful to the donor, William Carter, for his generosity.

Donation by William Carter (left to right) sewing table, poplar and birch, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village ME, c. 1846; blanket chest, pine, Canterbury Shaker Village NH c. 1840; and trustee's desk, poplar and birch, Alfred Shaker Village ME, C. 1860.



White Water's First Brothers and Sisters

by Linda Poynter

This article is dedicated in memory of our dear friend and fellow Friend of White Water Shaker Village, David Budd. For those of you who were able to attend this year's Annual Gathering in April, David gave a presentation about the Agnews, Boggetts and McKees – as he was a descendant of the first White Water Shakers. David unexpectedly passed away in July. We extend our condolences to his wife Karen and daughters Rebecca, Kathleen and Jennifer.

The McKees and Agnews moved from New Jersey and Pennsylvania to Ohio in 1795. Both families, along with the Boggetts eventually settled near each other in Morgan Township, Butler County, as confirmed in the 1820 U.S. Federal Census.

Joseph Boggett had built a Methodist meeting house on his property in 1818. His extended family members (the Agnews, Boggetts and McKees), as well as other local citizens, worshipped there. By 1822, momentum and attendance diminished. Joseph and Miriam McKee Agnew decided to continue their search for spiritual fulfillment, with Miriam taking the lead.

In early 1823, Miriam went to Union Village (in Warren County, Ohio) traveling the last 18 miles by foot. The large Shaker village (over 600 members in 1818) must have greatly inspired her, as Miriam confessed her sins within a few days, thereby becoming the first member of what would become known as the White Water Shakers. Two Union Village Shakers came to Morgan Township in early May to preach to the Agnews, their relatives and neighbors. Once the news spread that Shakers were going to preach in Joseph Agnew's barn, the meeting had to be held in a clearing instead due to the size of the crowd. Joseph Agnew and his brother Brant confessed their sins that day. Several days later, Miriam convinced four of her siblings and her mother to join the Shakers. Within a few months, thirty had pledged to become Shakers.

The first local Shaker services were held in Miriam's brother Anthony McKee's barn. By early 1824, meetings were moved to Joseph Boggett's farm several miles south, as the location was more convenient to the Shaker converts who lived in Crosby Township in Hamilton County.

The land on which the North Family site sits today (Crosby Township, Hamilton County) was purchased in 1825, as the land was better for farming and with the Dry Fork Creek (of the Whitewater River) nearby, grist and saw mills would be conveniently located. While land was being acquired, the new White Water Shaker novitiates continued to live on their family

farms in Morgan Township, following Shaker conventions.

Throughout Shaker history, those that pledged to become Shakers didn't always follow through and sign the Shaker covenant and remain a Shaker. Some of White Water's first brothers and sisters remained Shakers, either staying at White Water or moving to another Shaker Village, but most left the Shakers.

By 1830, when the White Water Shakers began signing the covenant, Miriam Agnew had grown discontented with Shaker life. Joseph, her husband, however, wished to remain at White Water. Miriam left, moving to Ripley County in Indiana. Five of the Agnew children left with her. Miriam and Joseph were divorced by 1839. Miriam remarried twice before passing away in 1869 at the age of 75.

Joseph Agnew remained a White Water Shaker until his death. He was an elder and a trustee and served White Water from 1828-1860. In March 1840, Joseph was one of five brethren arrested by Cincinnati policemen. The brethren had been accused of performing an undesired procedure on two boys who had lived at the village with their mother the prior summer. A court appointed

doctor verified that the accusations were substantiated. The brethren maintained their innocence and were willing to accept their fate, putting their faith in God. However, a fellow Shaker brother at White Water, Ezra Sherman, called on a local friend, Othneil Looker, a lawyer and former governor of Ohio who was living in Harrison during his retirement. He, along with many prominent Cincinnati lawyers and medical professionals, including Dr. Daniel Drake, provided testimony that no crime had been committed. All five Shakers were released and returned to White Water. Joseph died in 1870 at the age of 81. He is buried in the White Water cemetery.

Agnew daughters Hannah and Marietta remained Shakers, with Hannah "chosen" at the age of 16 in 1836 to move to New Lebanon, NY Shaker society. Initially mourning the directive to leave White Water, Hannah soon prepared herself emotionally for the departure. Her transition was seen as a symbolic uniting of the Shaker east and west societies. Hannah kept a travel journal ("Journal of a Memorable

Journey from White Water, Ohio to New Lebanon, N.Y.") which provides evidence of the education she received at White Water – excellent use of grammar and spelling, unusual skills for girls at that time. Hannah then lived at Hancock Shaker Village from 1880 until 1896, when she returned to Mt. Lebanon, staying until her death in 1905. Marietta was present at WW in 1835, but moved to Union Village. Records show that she visited White Water when Hannah visited from the east in 1856. Marietta left Union Village in 1861 and got married.

Margrietje (also known as Margaret and Peggy) Brant Agnew Boggett, Joseph Agnew's mother, was a founding member of White



Figure 38. The parents of Margaret Agnew Walker were instrumental in establishing the Shaker faith in Whitewater Village, Ohio, in the 1820's and 1830's. Brant Agnew (1786-1858) was the son of an Irishman and a Delaware Indian woman. Catherine Myers Agnew (1786-1862) was the daughter of one of the Hessian soldiers surrendered by Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. Brant's insistence that his rifle be included in this "pioneer portrait" (ca. 1855) ran counter to the couple's religious philosophy; hence the look of "disappointment" on Caty's face.

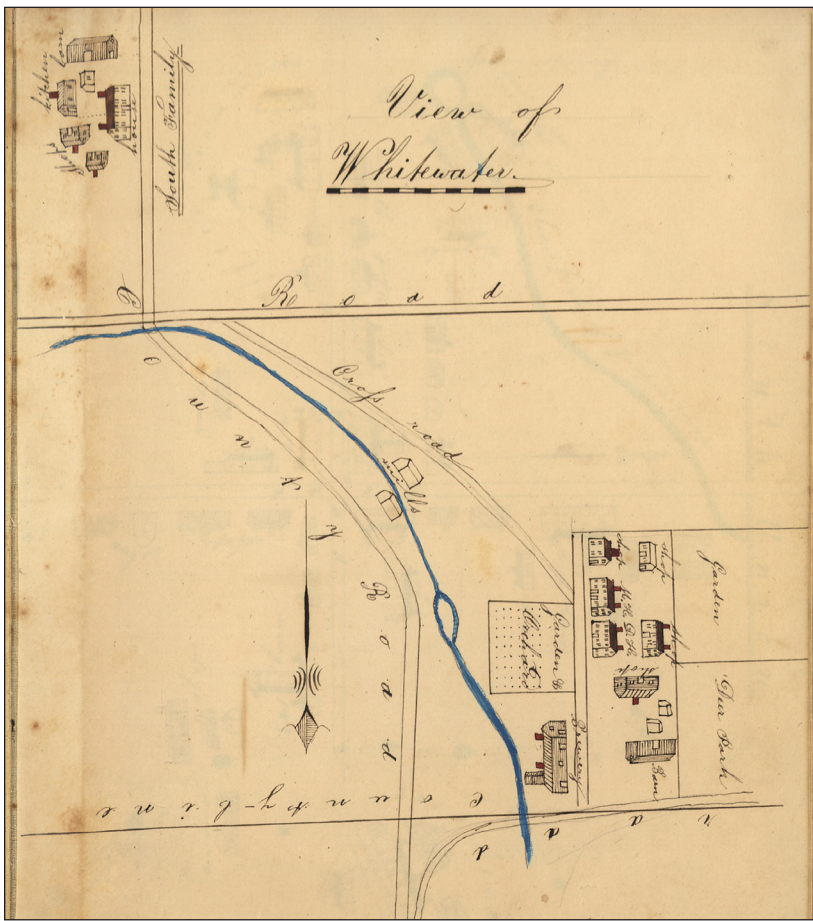
Water, as well as Joseph Boggett, Joseph Agnew's stepfather. Their daughter (and Joseph Agnew's half-sister) Hannah Boggett was an Eldress at White Water from 1842-1852. Hannah died in December 1852 and is buried in the WW cemetery.

Brant Agnew, Joseph's older brother, was a justice of the peace before becoming a founding member of White Water. He, along with his wife Catherine (Caty) Myers, joined with their seven children, two of whom were born while Brant and Caty were Shakers. Brant was a committed Shaker, but his devotion to his wife and family caused him to reluctantly leave when Caty did in 1831, moving to Illinois. He ran a riverboat on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, frequently hauling Shaker seeds and goods. Brant returned to White Water around 1848. He urged Caty to join him, but she refused and he left for the second time in 1849.

Joseph Agnew's sister Nancy married Miriam's brother Anthony. They were Shakers in the early years of White Water but left and moved to Fulton County, Indiana.

Miriam Agnew's mother, Sarah Guest McKee, was a founding member. At some point, she transferred to Union Village. Sarah died in 1847 at the age of 87.

Miriam's three brothers who joined, James, William and Anthony (who married Nancy Agnew), left White Water between 1825 and 1830. James left



after a hard growing season, William left after his wife became pregnant, and Anthony left when his sister Miriam did.

Miriam's sister, Josinah McKee, married Joseph's brother David. They did not become Shakers, but after their deaths in 1831 and 1835, their five children are listed as living with the Shakers in 1835, leaving by 1842. Their daughter Phoebe was noted as having visions during the Era of Manifestations in 1838.

The Agnew, Boggett and McKee families laid the foundation for what would become the last Shaker community founded in the Shaker West. One hundred and eighty-four years later, their descendant David came to see where his ancestors lived, worked and prayed. All left quite a legacy.

Martha Boice Honored

by Linda Poynter

Our friend, Martha Boice, was inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame at a special ceremony this fall in the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus. She, along with fourteen other seniors, were recognized for their contributions to their communities and fellow citizens.

Not only is Martha a founding member of the Friends of White Water Shaker Village, working to restore buildings at the North Family site, but she worked to save and preserve the David Watkins-George Sears House (Centerville-Washington Township) and led efforts to preserve the home of author Erma Bombeck. She has worked to get several houses on the National Register of Historic Places. Martha has spent decades researching the Shaker community of Watervliet, Ohio and has collaborated with others on a manuscript about Watervliet.

Previously, Martha received the following state level awards in 2016: Preservation Hero (by Heritage Ohio) for over 50 years of saving historical buildings, and the Excellence in Public Education and Awareness Award by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio History Connection.

We join the state of Ohio in recognizing the importance of the work Martha has diligently completed for more than 50 years. An honor well deserved!



The Friends of White Water
Shaker Village, Inc.
11813 Oxford Road
Harrison OH 45030

First Class Mail

Response Card for your Participation

Donations for the Meeting House Restoration Fund

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Donations for the Milk House Restoration Fund

☐ \$25 ☐ 50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Donations to be used at board's discretion

☐ \$25 ☐ 50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other \$ _____ Total \$ _____

☐ I would like my donation to remain anonymous. Total \$ _____

Look for the 2023 membership form in the next newsletter.

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Thank you for choosing to support our efforts to conserve and restore White Water Shaker Village.
Friends of White Water Shaker Village is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Please mail to: FWWSV, 11813 Oxford Road, Harrison OH 45030

Acknowledgement for my donation/membership may be sent via

☐ Email ☐ Mail ☐ Written acknowledgement not necessary

Sept. 2022