



# The White Water Record

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

Autumn 2025 • Volume 12, Number 2

## Paint Analysis in the Meeting House and Dwelling Continues

by Rich Spence

The Shakers enjoyed a “joyous range of colors” (Susan Buck, *Master Works of Color*, 2025) in their furniture as well as the interiors of their buildings. Pegrail, doors, window sashes, and even flooring were painted or stained a range of colors, from yellow and orange to deep red.

White Water was not an exception. Buck found in paint samples sent to her in July that flooring in two areas of the 1827 Meeting House was originally painted with a deep orange, oil bound paint composed of traditional and inexpensive pigments red ochre, burnt sienna, and calcium carbonate. Intriguingly, flooring in one sample from the 1832 Dwelling was painted a deep yellow. Further research and samples are needed to determine if all dwelling flooring was painted, and if so what color. Separately, Buck’s analysis confirmed that Meeting House second floor woodwork was painted the same color as the first floor woodwork, a deep orange red.

Susan Buck, Ph.D, has been investigating traditional Shaker paints and varnishes at Shaker village sites in New England, New York, Ohio and Kentucky.

### A MEMBERS - ONLY SPECIAL EVENT

Please join us in celebrating the  
198th Anniversary of the  
first service in the  
White Water Meeting House

Sunday, December 7, 2025

11791 Oxford Road  
Harrison, Ohio 45030

Light refreshments served at 3:00  
Program 3:30 to 5:30 PM  
Limited to the first 50 reservations

Please RSVP by December 1 to  
[lindap@whitewatervillage.org](mailto:lindap@whitewatervillage.org)  
or call 513-738-5202



## 2026 Membership Renewal

As you know, memberships are vital in supporting the daily operations and basic needs of the Village (such as propane for winter heating, electric, water, ongoing maintenance, and the phone line for the security system), as well as restoration projects. Members enjoy free or reduced admission to special events (such as the Annual Gathering and the Anniversary Celebration in December) and printed issues of our newsletter, *The White Water Record*.

Yearly memberships coincide with the calendar year. Any membership activated or renewed from October on are applied to the following year. If at any time you are unsure of your membership status, you are welcome to email Linda Poynter at [lindap@whitewatervillage.org](mailto:lindap@whitewatervillage.org) and she will check on your membership status for you.

We thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued membership.

# The Friends of White Water Shaker Village, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) corporation

Our website address is  
<www.whitetwatershakervillage.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  
<friendsowwwsv@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

**Newsletter** - Mardi & John Wells

## Board of Directors

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Jennifer Bornemann

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David Kilgo

Karen Kilgo

Patricia Kluener

Bruce Poynter

Linda Poynter

Richard Spence

## Advisory Board

Christy Connelly

Lois Madden

Carol Medlicott

## New Members for 2025

Mike & Judy Anderson	Sponsor
Johanna Batman	Individual
Justin & Kristen Bresnen	Family
David & Jenni Dillenburger	Sponsor
Jeffrey Hobbs	Family
Kenneth, Victoria, Kelsey Kramb	Family
Paul Van Kolken	Individual
Muriel Verdibello	Sponsor

## Renewing Members, 2025

Mary Abbott	Sponsor
Diane Bachman	Sponsor
Patricia Bertsch	Individual
Jack & Sue Buescher	Sponsor
Bill & Beth Burwinkel	Patron
Dave Coleman	Individual
Doug & Dawn Currie	Family
Gail & Bill Curtis	Sponsor
Roxann Dieffenbach	Individual
Jill Evans	Individual
Ken Fulmer	Individual
Josephine Gately	Individual
Joe Grittani	Individual
Tommy Hines	Family
Jim Innis	Sponsor
Merrel & Mary Lou Baker Jones	Family
David & Karen Kilgo	Sponsor
Larry & Trish Kluener	Sponsor
Darlene & George Kohrman	Sponsor
Mary Kolkmeyer	Individual
Ken & Sue Kramer	Sponsor
Joanna Ludwig	Sponsor
Fred Lutt	Family
Carol Medlicott	Sponsor
Charlotte & Robert Menker	Family
Michael & Beverly Metze	Sponsor
William Mooney	Individual
Paul & Marjo Prinzing	Sponsor
Tom Sakmyster	Patron
Mark Sandefur	Family
David Savage	Sponsor
Jon & Jackie Seymour	Sponsor
Susan & David Lee Smith	Family
Diane Weber-Hampson	Family
John & Mardi Wells	Family

## Lighting the Way Meeting House Campaign

### Contributions to \$50

Anonymous
JE and VE Elliott
Steve & Jackie Fiora
Josephine Gately
Diane Heise
Gail Holder
Scott & Elaine Hoover
William Mooney
Jerry & Debbie Moore
Thomas Queen

### Contributions to \$100

Bill & Beth Burwinkel

### Contributions to \$150

Deborah & Louis Schakel

Joseph Eric Stevens

### Contributions to \$250

Jack & Sue Buescher  
Jim Innis  
George & Darlene Kohrman

## Milk House Restoration Fund

### Contributions to \$50

Anonymous  
Patricia Bertsch  
Richard Binzer  
JE & VE Elliott  
Richard Fisher  
Fred Lutt  
Regeana & Al Morgan  
William Mooney  
Deborah & Louis Schakel  
Jon & Jackie Seymour

### Contributions to \$100

Jack & Sue Buescher  
Josephine Gately  
Jim Innis  
Anne Jantzen  
Victoria Kramb  
Thomas Queen  
Joseph Eric Stevens

### Contributions to \$250

George & Darlene Kohrman  
Lois Madden  
Paul Ruffing

## Meeting House Restoration Fund

### Contributions to \$1,000

George Grove

## Donors-Unrestricted

### Contributions to \$50

Anonymous  
Flores Amo Garden Club  
Diane Heise  
Gail Holder  
Carol Medlicott  
Larry Orcutt

### Contributions to \$100

William Carter  
David & Jenni Dillenburger  
Paul & Marjo Prinzing

### Contributions to \$200

Larry Brown  
Elizabeth Riorden  
Susan & David Lee Smith

### Contributions to \$500

David D. Royse  
Diane Weber-Hampson

### Contributions to \$1000

David Savage

### Contributions to \$5000

Anonymous

## Memorial Donations

Richard & Bonnie Woll  
*In memory of Earl & Thelma Hiler*

## 2025 Grants Granted

In June, the W. E. Smith Family Charitable Trust graciously provided funding in the amount of \$1,828 for paint analysis of painted wooden surfaces in the 1827 Shaker meeting house that will enable authentic and accurate restoration of the interior second floor of the building. The grant also provided funding for educational materials and supplies purchased for hands-on activities for our visitors this fall. We are most grateful for their continued support.

Please see the Paint Analysis and Fall Happenings articles for how these funds impacted FWWSV and our mission.

## Recent Artifact Donations

A wooden bucket attributed to the Shakers, and a variety of 19<sup>th</sup> century food storage and preparation items. Gift of Tony and Beverly Torres

Pleasant Hill Wood Box, a reproduction made by the SVPH workshops. Maple with light tan stain. Gift of George and Darlene Kohrman

Weaver's Chair, attributed to Pleasant Hill Shaker Village, maple with oak stretchers and splint seat. Gift of Scott and Elaine Hoover



Mt. Lebanon #3 Armed Rocker. Gift of Paul and Nancy Wheeler

Candle Stand, a Shaker reproduction made by Cohassett Colonials. Gift of George and Darlene Kohrman

Silk Scarf, from the Maine Shakers, and a number of smalls including a wick trimming scissors. Gift of Paul and Nancy Wheeler

Two Union Village side chairs with original finishes and seating. Gift of Beth Kremer

Issues of publications by the Shakers: The Shaker, The Shaker and Shakeress, The Manifesto, and The Shaker Quarterly. Donated by the Shaker Village at South Union, Kentucky

Cassette Tape Recording of a one hour interview with a lady who was cared for by the White Water Shakers in her early teens, 1900-1904. Gift of Jack and Betty Rhodus

Mt Lebanon Armed Rocker, #6, with original decal and finish, circa 1875. Purchased using FWWSV Acquisition Fund.

Several recently published books on the Shakers including The Last Shaker Apostate, by Thomas Sakmyster and The Shakers of Enfield Connecticut by Stephen Paterwic. Gift of Thomas Sakmyster

Walnut sconce, Shaker reproduction made at SVPH. Gift of Thomas Sakmyster



*Top left photo: Scarf made by Maine Shakers*

*Bottom left photo: Weaver's Chair from Pleasant Hill*

*Above photo: Beth Kremer and two Union Village chairs*

## Fall Gatherings At the Village

On Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> over 110 people from Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky attended the "Grand" Event. Held on Grandparents' Day, families were invited to come spend the day together and try their hand at some period activities. Eight stations placed throughout the Village enabled guests, young and old, to dip candles, card wool, weave a chair seat, weave a yarn project, make butter, use period hand and woodworking tools, and make a seed packet. Both children and adults enjoyed the activities.

We are grateful to the W. E. Smith Family Charitable Trust for granting us the funds to purchase the educational programming supplies for the day. Many of the supplies will be able to be used at future events.

On Saturday October 4, the village was open as part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual "Passport to the Past", featuring five historic venues in Harrison and Crosby Township. About 60 neighbors, members and the curious public attended to enjoy the village and the new exhibit, "Simply Shaker".

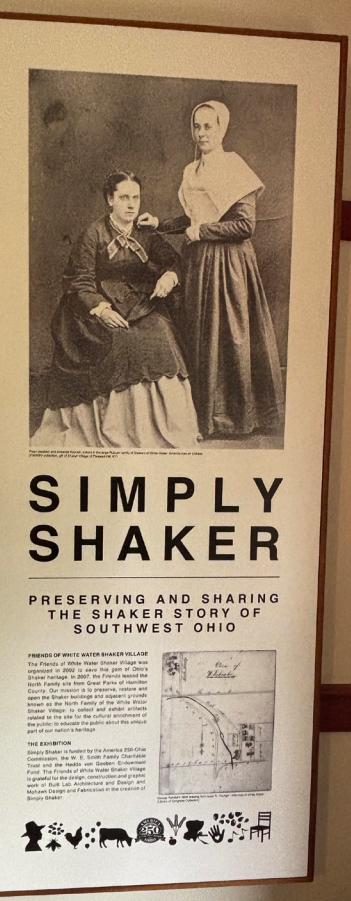
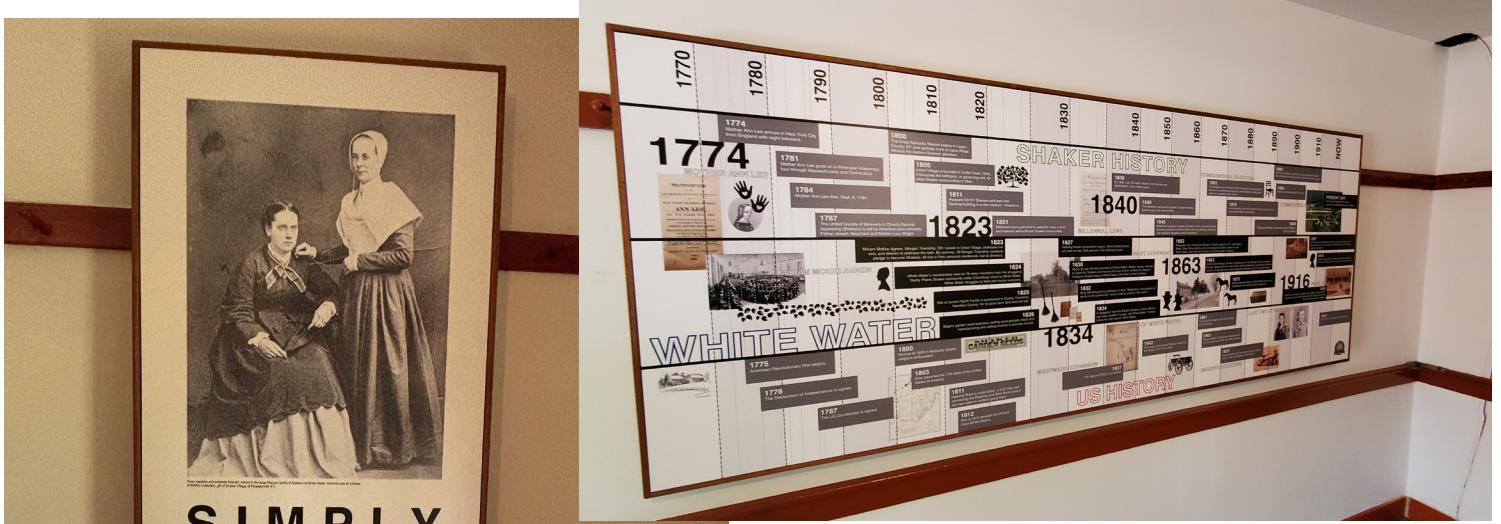
The meeting house and dwelling were open during both events for tours.



*Above: Paul, Nancy and Jamison Wheeler visiting from Illinois*

*Below: Weaving in the Wagon Shed*





*Whitney Hamaker and Nicholas German adjusting an exhibit frame.*

## ***Simply Shaker From Concept to Completion***

by Linda Poynter

Early in 2023 while we were preparing rooms for the upcoming restoration work in the Dwelling, we had to dismantle and store the serpentine display wall that had been up for several years. The display of historic photographs and informational text had been collected and created by Jim Innis to share the White Water Shaker Village story at local venues such as the public library and a Great Parks visitor center prior to the time visitors could visit our site in person. We realized that the serpentine wall (which had been donated after use by another organization) had likely outlived its usefulness and we should look into creating a more permanent exhibit after the restoration was complete.

Fast forward to the fall of 2023. Elizabeth Riorden, an FWWSV member and former board member and current Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Cincinnati, reached out to make sure we knew about the America 250-Ohio Commission grants that were available. She offered to help us and suggested that we may also want to work with Lauren Whitehurst and Whitney Hamaker, co-founders of Built Lab and instructors at the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning (DAAP), and Nicholas Germann, founder of Mohawk Design and Fabrication and manager of the Rapid Prototyping Center associated with DAAP at UC. Jerry Moore, another FWWSV member, also offered to help.

We began meeting in late January 2024. We decided the exhibit would include six themed panels, a vitrine (display case) in the center of the room and a three-tiered timeline, showcasing Shaker history, US history, and White Water Shaker Village history. After multiple in-person meetings and emails to develop the exhibition concept and design, the grant proposal was written by Rich Spence and Linda Poynter. Jennifer Bornemann, Jerry Moore, and Elizabeth Riorden proofread and edited the proposal and it was submitted prior to the March deadline.

In June 2024 we received the good news that FWWSV was one of 61 projects (from more than 170 submitted) that received funding. As the America 250-Ohio Commission was trying to support as many projects as possible, we received \$5,000 of the \$8,000 requested. To help bridge the funding gap, we applied for a W. E. Smith Family Charitable Trust grant and were granted \$2,000 toward the exhibit. The remaining \$1,000 came from our Hedda von Goeben Endowment Fund.



Five exhibit panels with two Shaker seed boxes on display

Multiple in-person meetings occurred over the next nine months or so, as Rich and Linda wrote, edited, and rewrote text (a challenge when you have so many interesting facts to share and you think everything is worth including). We selected the photos to include on the exhibit panels and discussed how the panels would be made. Lauren was instrumental in designing the panels and timeline, selecting the fonts and graphic components. The informational panels were designed to reach a range of visitors - those with limited time, as well as those with a keen interest in learning more. Each panel starts with a question/topic, such as *What Did They Grow? Farming Life at White Water Shaker Village*. Then subtitles can be read to gain a quick overview-*Crops and Livestock, Fruit Orchards, Berries and Preserves*, and *Dairy Production*. If the visitor wants more information, they can read the subsequent paragraphs. Lauren also incorporated graphics at the bottom of each panel to engage young children to the facts revealed on the panel. The *What Did They Grow* panel shows corn, grain, a variety of fruit, and farm animals.

Nicholas and Whitney used Sapele, a West African hardwood in the mahogany family, to create the panel frames and the top part of the vitrine. It is a beautiful and economical alternative to mahogany and is responsibly and sustainably harvested. The sides of the vitrine are made of Okoume marine plywood.



You just get one chance.



Whitney and Nick negotiating a narrow Shaker staircase.

All of the frame and vitrine parts and a vast majority of the hardware were custom CNC machined (Computer Numerical Control - a manufacturing process where computer software controls machine tools) by Nicholas and Whitney. The panel frames were designed to hang on the peg rail. Since little is straight and level in the nearly 200-year-old building, they designed and made specific hardware to address some significant design problems such as the sag in the existing peg rail, by developing the “sliding frame adjuster”. This adjuster allowed the panels to be installed and leveled along the wall.

Several elements of Nicholas and Whitney’s design were inspired by the Shakers and their philosophy, such as the utilization of new production technology, the joinery and joinery details of their objects, and the commitment to making well-crafted and long-lasting artifacts that were meant to be used and last for many years to come.

Prior to having the panels printed by Harlan Graphic Arts Services, Carol Medlicott, Jerry Grant, Tommy Hines, and Jennifer Bornemann proofread and provided editing suggestions.

We are most thankful for the support of the America 250-Ohio Commission, the W. E. Smith Family Charitable Trust, the Hedda von Goeben Endowment Fund, and all the people involved in making this exhibit a reality. It is truly a beautiful exhibition and one that we believe would make our White Water Shakers proud.



Nicholas, Whitney and Lauren, builders of the exhibit.

# Come Walk with Us

## Annual Appeal

With the end of the Meeting House restoration in sight, complying with Crosby Township Zoning regulations comes next. This includes walkways, parking lots, fences, landscaping and exterior lighting. All will be enhancements and are greatly needed. Plans are in place, having been permitted by the Hamilton County Building Department and approved by Great Parks.

The sidewalks will come first, connecting the Dwelling and Meeting House to the north and south parking lots, with a spur to the restroom. Hence this year's Annual Appeal: **Come Walk with Us.**

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS  
WITH HUNDREDX

- SIGN UP**  
<https://programs.hundredx.com/impactwithfeedback>  
OR  
Text "IMPACT" to 90412
- SELECT YOUR ORGANIZATION**  
Select **Friends of White Water Shaker Village** from the drop down menu
- EARN MONEY**  
Every quality survey generates \$ for your organization

\*Message and data rates may apply. By texting "90412" you agree to receive SMS messages from HundredX Causes (HXC). Even though HXC makes no sales to you, the law requires HXC to disclose that your consent is not a condition of purchase.



Ramp ends with gravel and grass

### A FREE Fundraising Opportunity is HERE! How a donation of time can help the village financially

The Friends of White Water Shaker Village is again partnering with HundredX this fall to help raise funds for village restoration. Members and other supporters, such as friends and family of members, can help, too.

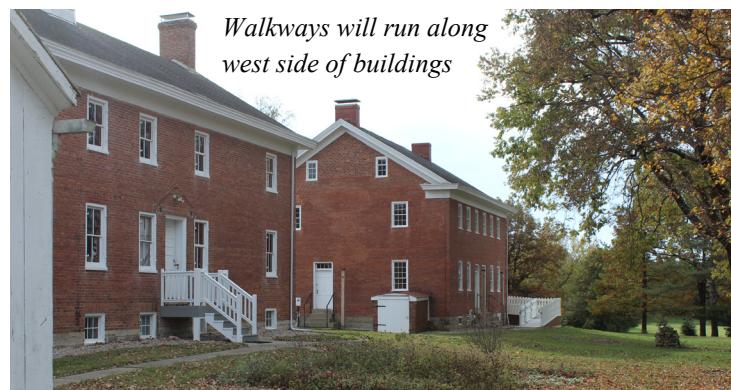
People will be asked to provide information on their experiences as a consumer on select businesses, companies and products by completing surveys from October 24 to November 24. Participants select which surveys (and how many) they would like to complete. Surveys can be completed on a cellphone, computer or tablet. Each completed survey will earn \$1.60 for FWWSV. The maximum payment that FWWSV could potentially receive is \$5,000. At the conclusion of our survey month, you will no longer receive notifications from HundredX. People opt-in to participate and may unsubscribe at any time. Your personal information is not used or sold to any company. Those that participated last year can confirm that.

Last fall, 94 members, friends, and family members completed 1,812 surveys raising \$2,889.20 for FWWSV to help pay for the rewiring of the Meeting House.

Each survey takes approximately 60-90 seconds to complete and it is recommended that you complete less than 10 surveys a day. You can sign up to participate any time between October 24-November 24. (If you receive this newsletter prior to November 24, you can still help. Informational emails will be sent to all members and friends for whom we have email addresses in October.) You can help raise much needed funds without buying or selling anything. Sharing this opportunity with your circle of family and friends is a great help!

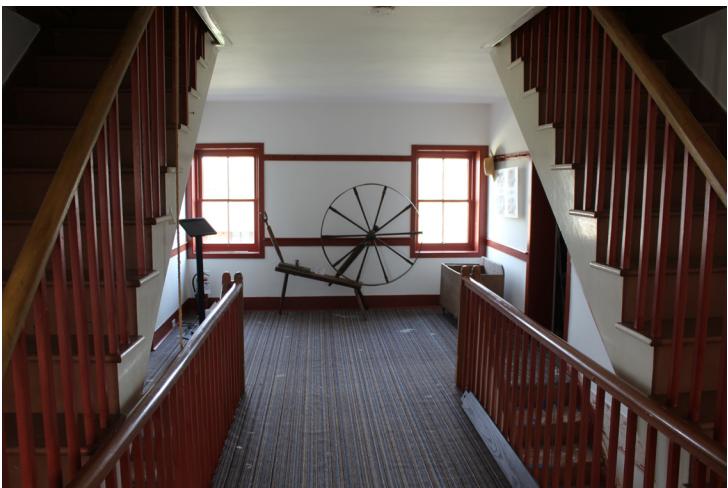
The Friends of White Water Shaker Village will use the funds raised during this campaign to pay for the restoration of the Meeting House attic staircase.

Please reach out to Linda <[LindaP@whitewatervillage.org](mailto:LindaP@whitewatervillage.org)> or Jennifer <[JenniferB@whitewatervillage.org](mailto:JenniferB@whitewatervillage.org)> if you have any questions or concerns.





Above: Sisters Room. Below: Dwelling Second floor hallway



Clockwise from upper left:

- Staircase to Attic has been enclosed
- Center Hallway
- Lighting on first floor and beams covered
- Attic staircase under construction



## Dwelling Maintenance and Restoration Update

by Rich Spence

The Dwelling continues to receive a lot of attention this year. The new year started with the boiler receiving new burners. With the cold temperatures last winter, the boiler was working hard.

All five of the rooms where the walls and ceilings were restored have now been painted. The retiring room on the first floor that houses our Shaker gift shop was the last room completed. In March, Chris and Carol Killeya drove three hours from Sunbury, Ohio, volunteering two days to help prep the room by scraping and washing walls and woodwork with Jennifer Bornemann and Bruce and Linda Poynter. Gail Holder and Bruce caulked around all the woodwork prior to painting. Larry Kluener, Dennis Gallant, Dave Kilgo, Meg Ernst, Gail and Jennifer painted the room.

Little by little, over the course of the spring and summer months, the Shaker shop has been restored and totally revitalized by Susy Spence and Trish Kluener. The newly renovated room now showcases our Shaker furniture pieces and what we offer for sale: books about the Shakers, reproductions, and gift items. The bookcase donated and painted yellow by Scott Hoover, based on paint analysis at South Union, and the Alfred trustees desk were nice additions.

Five new ceiling light fixtures have been installed in the restored rooms. The old crumbling cast iron vent pipe that ran from the basement to the attic has been removed, graciously paid for by one of our members. We are waiting on repairing the ceiling and floorboard holes that remain in the affected first and second floor rooms until Great Parks completes security system upgrades.

The remaining restoration project in the Dwelling at this time is scraping, prepping and painting the first floor hall.

## Meeting House Update

by Rich Spence

The restoration of the Meeting House continues despite a hiatus due to July and August hot weather. The first floor has a ceiling at last, primed and painted. Covers have been replicated for the three large beams that carry the weight of the second floor. The original covers could not be used, a casualty of adding five lighting fixtures and the necessary wiring and electrical boxes. These covers will be installed on the second floor, where most of the covers are missing. The accessibility ramp is now completed, stained and functional for all of our visitors with mobility challenges.

On the second floor, the attic stairs are now restored with vertical beaded paneling and the attic railing has been completed. The myriad of holes in the plaster walls have disappeared and two doors have been rehung. We have the six original doors for the four retiring rooms and two walk-in closets, and Suffolk latches have been purchased to be used where hardware is missing.

Paint analysis by Susan Buck has confirmed that the second floor woodwork was painted the same deep orange-red color as she found on the first floor woodwork. The surprise, however, was that the flooring was painted with a deep orange oil bound paint. See "Paint Analysis in the Meeting House and Dwelling Continues" in this newsletter.

The next steps are to complete the finish carpentry on the second floor, followed by the electrician returning to finish the wiring and install the lighting.

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

*First Class Mail*

The graphic features a central dark gray box with a white border. At the top center is a logo for "FRIENDS OF WHITE WATER SHAKER VILLAGE, INC." featuring a stylized building icon. Below the logo, the words "UPCOMING" and "2026 Events" are displayed in large, bold, white letters. Three white ovals below list events: "Saturday April 11 2026 Annual Gathering Reservations Required", "Sunday May 24 Memorial Weekend Open House", and "Saturday June 6 Flea Market". A small white flower icon is positioned to the left of the April event, and another to the right of the June event. A decorative scroll graphic connects the bottom of the April event oval to the top of the May event oval. At the bottom, a white banner contains the text "FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [WWW.WHITEWATERVILLAGE.ORG](http://WWW.WHITEWATERVILLAGE.ORG)".

*Thanks  
to our  
sponsors*



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# *2026 Membership, Annual Appeal, and Donor Response Card*

## **2026 FWWSV Membership**

\$15 Student       \$30 Individual       \$50 Family       \$100 Sponsor  
 \$500 Patron       \$1,000 White Water Society      Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **Donations for the Milk House Restoration Fund**

\$50       \$100       \$250  
 \$500       \$1,000       \$ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **2025-2026 Annual Appeal - Come Walk with Us**

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$200     \$ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **Donations**

\$50       \$100       \$250  
 \$500       \$1,000       \$ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for choosing to support the 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