

# The Beacon

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## HARRISON



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*The 1827 Meeting House and 1832 dwelling of the White Water Shaker Village in Crosby Township near Harrison, OH.*

Did you ever look back in your past and realize something you were involved in or were exposed to was cool, but at the time was just part of everyday life?

When I was in elementary school one of my closest lifelong friends was **Jennifer Galt**. She and her parents, **David and April**, lived in the 1827 Meeting House, one of the historic Shaker buildings of the White Water Shaker Village in Crosby Township on Oxford Road. I spent many nights at this house and remember how neat it was inside. The big cooking hearth in the living room was beautiful. The two front doors were interesting- one for men and one for women back when the Shakers met there.

But among all of this history was mixed in modern life with

pinball machines on the third floor and, if memory serves me correctly, a red hot tub on the second floor. I mean, the ghosts that haunted that house needed some way to relax, right? Oh, yes, we definitely had some weird unexplainable experiences there we suspected were supernatural. Once I was hit in the forehead by a flying egg! Well, that was more weird than unexplainable because it happened when Jennifer's Mom tossed (read: threw) me a Cadbury egg with little warning. We still laugh about that.

While reminiscing with Jennifer about living in the Shaker house, she said, "It was my first memory of home, and I love that my own nostalgia blends with such an important history in our area." We were curious to see how it had been restored and started making plans to go back and see it together. Turns out, in March we can do more than visit.

Per the website, The Friends of White Water Shaker Village are hosting a restoration project as they celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the founding of White Water this year. The White Water Paint Project will bring some of the interior spaces back to their original appearance.

White Water is one of twenty-four communal villages founded in the United States by the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, more commonly known as the Shakers, between 1787 and 1824. White Water is the only remaining village of five Ohio Shaker villages. It is located in Crosby Township, just outside of Harrison, Ohio, and Great Parks' Miami Whitewater Forest.

You can find more information on White Water's website under the Projects tab at [www.whitewatervillage.org](http://www.whitewatervillage.org). (Cadbury eggs not included.)