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A Shaker Family Album: Photographs From The Collection Of Canterbury Shaker Village



Synopsis

This collection of more than 100 images captures the essence of Shaker life in poses both pious and playful, and records how individual identity was nurtured, rather than extinguished by the community. Carefully chosen from thousands of archival photos and from a drawerful of snapshots saved by Eldress Bertha Lindsay, one of the last Shakers to live at Canterbury and herself a consummate photographer, these pictures - most of them never intended for publication - give new life to the Shaker lifestyle. These farmers, artisans, and celibate guardians of orphan children lived in what David R. Starbuck calls an unusually humane environment and maintained a faith that was "remarkably resilient and long lasting."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The publication of this book presents the Shakers in a new light . . . Here are scenes depicting the Shakers in a way they wanted to remember, not necessarily always in ways they wanted to be remembered by . . . An introduction by David R. Starbuck provides the most succinct and beautifully portrayed historical summary of the Shakers that I have read . . . A series of Shaker 'family albums' would be a welcome addition to the growing bookshelf on Shaker history." --Historical New Hampshire
"Excavating the Sutlers' House" is a well-written volume and should appeal to professional and vocational archaeologists, re-enactors, military historians, and indeed anyone hoping to learn more about British military artifacts of the 18th century. Starbuck's interpretations are sound and the photography is superb. This book will be an important addition to the libraries of

historical archaeologists throughout the Northeast."--Daily Gazette (Schenectady, NY)

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If you are interested in the Shakers, this is a great read. Some of the photos may surprise you, such as photos of the Shakers on "field trips" at Nubble Light in Maine, or sitting on the beach with a non-Shaker sibling. There were clearly a lot of fun times, including a variety of plays---these are not necessarily the images that normally spring to mind when you hear the word Shaker. Consequently, this book will make the Shakers come to life for you in a very three-dimensional way and make you think more deeply about what life as a Shaker was like. Highly recommend.

Perfect....

This is one of my favorite books in my Shaker collection. This book brings the personalities back to life for me. As a Shaker enthusiast, I enjoy seeing the picture of the people written about in other works. The author has done a good job selecting photographs that best illustrate the life and work of a great people.

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