

**UNDERHILL SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
108th ANNUAL MEETING**

September 8-10, 2000  
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center East  
Louisville, Kentucky

**ATTENDEES BY STATE**

**California:**

Adelbert Newman, Panorama City  
Patricia Newman, Panorama City

**Georgia:**

Hans M. Hammer, Atlanta

**Kentucky:**

George T. Underhill, Jr., Louisville  
Ann Underhill, Louisville  
Dorothy Underhill Maxwell  
Jeffrey A. Underhill, Louisville  
Margaux Underhill, Louisville  
George T. Underhill III (Todd), Anchorage  
Colleen Underhill, Anchorage  
Jordon Underhill, Anchorage  
Channing Underhill, Anchorage  
Melvin L. Underhill, Prospect  
Helen Underhill, Prospect  
Beverly Underhill Knight, Radcliff

**Michigan:**

Carl J. Underhill, Allendale  
Elyse M. Underhill, Allendale

**New Jersey:**

Everett A. Underhill, Cedar Grove  
Margaret Underhill, Cedar Grove

**New York:**

Harold E. Campbell, Setauket  
Samuel Underhill Mitchell, E. Williston  
Alice Underhill Mitchell, E. Williston  
Adele H. Talmage, Riverhead  
Edith S. Uhlendorf, Glen Cove  
Frank Uhlendorf, Glen Cove  
William H. Underhill, Clifton Park

**Texas:**

R. Diane Underhill, Euless  
Donald F. Underhill, Euless  
Mary T. de Marigny, Houston  
Kenneth W. Underhill, Eastland  
Jean Underhill, Eastland

**Wisconsin:**

Hope W. Conley, Madison

We had a grand time together in Louisville.



From left are Adele Talmage, Harold Campbell, Alice Mitchell and Elyse Underhill.

The men are plotting in the background, while the women hold court in the foreground. From left are Adele, Alice, Elyse and Helen Underhill.

We began on Thursday night with cocktails and dinner at the home of George and Ann Underhill, who were great hosts. How could we miss with Ann's fantastic cooking skills and George's open bar?



This tete-a-tete is between Marge Underhill, left, and Diane Underhill.

Our hostess, Ann Underhill on the left, and Helen were paying close attention to the conversation of the moment.



The men finally progressed to the foreground. From left are Everett Underhill, George Underhill, Harold Campbell and Don Underhill. Carl Underhill is somewhere in the house, but he escaped my camera!

On Friday morning we had a board meeting. In back, from left, are Don Underhill, Carl Underhill, Sam Mitchell and Everett Underhill. At the table are, from left, George Underhill, Harold Campbell and Mel Underhill.





We registered in the afternoon. That evening we had a happy hour, where we enjoyed meeting some new faces, followed by the annual meeting.

On the left are, from left, Helen Underhill, Hans Hammer, Carl and Elyse Underhill enjoying hors d'oeuvres.

To the right, from right, Carl and Elyse Underhill greet Beverly Underhill Knight.



From left, Bill Underhill, Mary de Marigny, Ann Underhill and Helen Underhill.

On the right, from left, Alice Mitchell, Dorothy Underhill Maxwell (George Underhill's mother) and Adele Talmage enjoy a pre-dinner chat.



Left, Bill Underhill is explaining something to George Underhill and Harold Campbell. George is the one eating!

On the right, Mary de Marigny got pictured again with Diane Underhill, left, and Don Underhill, the Texas trio.



Left, Todd and Colleen Underhill are the son and daughter-in-law of Ann and George Underhill. That's Hans Hammer in the background.

Hans Hammer and Beverly Underhill Knight. Hans hails from Atlanta and Beverly lives in Radcliff, Kentucky, not far from Louisville.



This quartet, on the left, was having so much fun I simply had to capture the moment! From left, Colleen Underhill, daughter Jordon Underhill, niece Margaux Underhill and daughter Channing Underhill.

Right, George Underhill and Harold Campbell are in the background admiring Channing, Margaux and Jordon while they took a bow after the reading of some of the winning essays of the Phebe Underhill Smith Essay Contest.



Another group of happy hour devotees, from left, Everett Underhill, Marge Underhill, Jean Underhill, Ken Underhill and Don Underhill.



Going around the dinner table from the left and facing us, Edith Uhlendorf, Frank Uhlendorf and Hope Conley are preparing to enjoy the feast.

And continuing around the same table from left, Del Newman, Pat Newman, Adele Talmage and Alice Mitchell eagerly await the main course.



Sam Mitchell, left, and Jeff Underhill are discussing current affairs before settling down to the dinner meeting. Jeff is Ann and George's other son, whose daughter Margaux is pictured on page 3.

Harold Campbell and George Underhill opened the annual meeting.



George introduced Don Underhill, who reported on the upcoming annual meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas next year.

Carl Underhill took the lectern to give the genealogist's report and then presided over the election of officers.



The election of officers progressed with Carl on the left, flanked on the right, Carl's left that is, by Mel Underhill, George and Harold. You can see that Harold is taking it all down. This was close to the adjournment of the meeting.

Speaking of Mel Underhill, earlier in the meeting I gave a report on our World Wide Web site. As of this writing, December 20, 2000, we have had 5392 visitors to our site since going online October 1, 1997.

We boarded the tour bus Saturday morning and headed out through the Bluegrass countryside. The first stop was the Labrot & Graham Distillery, home of true Kentucky bourbon in Woodford County near Versailles. This place is completely surrounded by beautiful thoroughbred horse farms, with their 4 and 5-board fences drawing patterns on the rolling terrain. After the tour, we were treated to Kentucky bourbon ball



chocolate candy and peach tea (really great tea!).

We gathered outside of the distillery for the tour. Once inside, our tour guide identified the main ingredients that go into the mix to be distilled. Of course, the exact proportions are a closely guarded secret! Even the tour guide is not apprised of the percentages.



The vats were bubbling away with the appropriate ingredients. This is the only distillery in the country that still uses copper stills! They have always used them, it's one of their distinctions. As you can see, they are huge.



That's Hope Conley trodding between the aging buildings. There are barrels upon barrels of aging bourbon stored in these buildings to be opened in years to come for bottling. We were told that it's not bourbon unless it's matured in new charred white oak barrels. The charred inside of the barrel helps bring out the characteristics of the wood which give bourbon its distinctive taste and rich color. We saw a barrel marked for the Governor of Kentucky, and another for the chairman of Brown-Forman Corporation, parent company.



Then we traveled through Harrodsburg to Historic Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. THIS IS PLEASANT HILL, KENTUCKY, on whose meadows and hills a Shaker colony once existed. You are invited to turn your thoughts for a while to a way of life that prospered, waned and s no more. Here is the story of a search for the perfect society by a devout and visionary people.



### **The Shaker Legacy**

The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, known to the world as Shakers because of their ritualistic dance, were nineteenth century America's largest and best-known communal society. Their movement began in New York State shortly after the revolution, and by the 1840s, nearly 6000 Shakers lived in communities from Maine to Kentucky.

The Shakers chose a peaceful way of life. They were celibate, believed in equality of race and sex and freedom from prejudice. A practical and innovative people, they were well known for their labor-saving inventions. The best known of these is the flat broom. A quest for simplicity and perfection is reflected in their fine design and craftsmanship and the term "Shaker-made" has become a hallmark of excellence around the world.

The Shakers came to central Kentucky in 1805 and, on a high plateau above the Kentucky River near Harrodsburg, established a village they named Pleasant Hill. Although by the mid-nineteenth century the community was thriving with as many as 500 residents and more than 1000 acres of land, changing social attitudes and the industrial revolution signaled its decline. By 1910, only a few Shakers survived and the village was closed.

For the next 50 years, Pleasant Hill existed as a small farm community, and in 1961, a nonprofit group was formed to preserve its heritage. Since that time, 33 original buildings have been restored and 2700 acres of farmland preserved.

Today the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill is a model for historic preservation. A National Historic Landmark from boundary to boundary, it is the only site of its kind where all visitor services are provided in original buildings.

Kentucky Shakers no longer exist and only one community is active in New England, yet their lasting influence is a legacy to all who visit Pleasant Hill.



A Shaker woman works at her loom. The village was completely self sufficient. They made all their own clothing, bedding, linens and

rugs. The device in the center is known as a weasel, used to measure



yarn. It would be set at the appropriate length to measure and when that length was achieved, it would pop. Thus was born the phrase “pop goes the

weasel!” The Meeting Hall, right, is where all the gatherings



were held, including religious services. The narrator is explaining that men and women were always seated on opposite sides. The candle holders on

the walls could be moved anywhere along those rails, on which chairs could also be stored.



This Shaker (our narrator) demonstrates the reason Shakers were known by that name. They would sway and shake their arms during religious services, demonstrating how they were being moved by the Spirit. They were very good singers and wrote most, if not all, of their own songs and hymns.

Some Shakers were gathered in the street, in front of the Meeting Hall.



An enactment of the funeral and burial of a dearly departed member of their flock was conducted while we were in the village. On the left, the sister’s casket was loaded onto a wagon following the funeral in the Meeting Hall. At right, villagers accompanied the wagon to the cemetery for the burial.



The Kentucky History Center, in Frankfort, was our next stop. The Kentucky Historical Society has ensured that Kentucky history can be enjoyed for lifetimes to come by constructing the Kentucky History Center. The Kentucky History Center is a classically inspired contemporary building of 167,000 square feet, designed to house the state museum as well as the research library, the educational programs, the special events, and the publications programs of the Kentucky Historical Society. A 25,000-square-foot permanent exhibit gallery and a 5,000-square-foot changing exhibit gallery flanks the atrium. The permanent exhibit is divided into ten distinct areas, each

representing a specific period of time in Kentucky’s history. The changing exhibit will house temporary exhibits showcasing local artifacts, as well as traveling exhibits from world renowned history and art museums such as the Smithsonian.



I don't know what happened to my picture taking duties during our tour of the Kentucky History Center, but I cannot locate any photos of that part of our tour. I must of been between rolls and didn't take the time to reload. We arrived late in the afternoon and the Center closed at 5:00 PM, so we hurried through to see as much as we could. We saw some original tools used by craftsmen of the early Kentucky years, some of which are donated by George and Ann Underhill. There was even a full size river raft on display as a walk-through venue, complete with a cabin on the deck. Helen and I will have to revisit the Center and perhaps give a more detailed report in a later newsletter.



Then on to dinner at The Old Stone Inn in Simpsonville, 8 miles west of Shelbyville on Highway 60. In the early 1800s, when Highway 60 was called the Lexington and Louisville Turnpike, the *Old Stone Inn*, circa 1805, was well known as a hospitable stage-coach inn and tavern. New proprietors have restored the inn as a restaurant and gift shop. The food is rich and pure Southern, so come hungry when the old dinner bell rings.



Originally built as a residence when Simpsonville was part of Jefferson County, Virginia. The inn was constructed with limestone walls an average of 21 inches thick. Licensed as a tavern and operated as a stagecoach stop from 1826 to 1924. In 1924, "Ye *Olde Stone Inn*" opened as a restaurant and bed and breakfast.



At top left Helen Underhill poses at the entrance of Old Stone Inn. You can recognize others in the dining room as they await the dinner that the good smells from the kitchen promise.

The smiling lady at right was our tourguide and the gentleman below her was our bus driver. A very congenial pair to spend the day with.



THE ATTENDEES OF THE 108th ANNUAL MEETING IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY



This is the rogues gallery of those who attended the Louisville meeting. I'll identify them by rows.

First row, left to right:

Mel Underhill, Helen Underhill, George Underhill, Margaux Underhill, Elyse Underhill

Second row, left to right:

Hope Conley, Pat Newman, Edith Uhlendorf, Alice Mitchell, Dorothy Underhill Maxwell, Ann Underhill, Adele Talmage

Third row, left to right:

Del Newman, Beverly Knight, Mary de Marigny, Frank Uhlendorf, Sam Mitchell, Marge Underhill, Jean Underhill, Harold Campbell, Bill Underhill

Fourth row, left to right:

Jeff Underhill, Carl Underhill, Don Underhill, Everett Underhill, Ken Underhill, Hans Hammer, Diane Underhill

Not pictured: Todd Underhill, Colleen Underhill, Jordon Underhill, Channing Underhill

## OBITUARIES

1-6-25-117-392-1114-2743-B-D-B-C MARTHA MAY SETTLE, b Feb. 10, 1923 d **Sep. 25, 2000** Cadillac, MI m Aug. 29, 1943 Robert E. Fordyce b May 1, 1924. Information from Martha Fordyce, Marion, MI.  
Issue (Fordyce):  
+A LINDA SUE, b 1947 m 1972 Richard Jerome Elsroad b 1937.  
B ROBERT E., II, b Feb. 7, 1951.  
C RICHARD A., b Sep. 25, 1955 m Mar. 4, 1979 Kathleen Brasseur.

Her parents:

1-6-25-117-392-1114-2743-B-D-B MYRTLE NEVA McMULLEN, b Apr. 9, 1888 d Jun. 23, 1979 Cadillac, MI bur Mt. Pleasant, MI m Jul. 29, 1909 Cadillac, MI Alvin Settle b Nov. 2, 1882 d Dec. 22, 1931. Information from Hans M. Hammer, Atlanta, GA and Martha Fordyce, Marion, MI.  
Issue (Settle):  
A CARL ALFRED, b Mar. 31, 1910 d Dec. 8, 1963 m Mar. 31, 1936 Gretchen Downing.  
B RENDLE JAMES, b Jul. 10, 1913 d Nov. 8, 1921.  
+C MARTHA MAY, b 1923 d 2000 m 1943 Robert E. Fordyce b 1924.

Her grandparents:

1-6-25-117-392-1114-2743-B-D HESTER ANN COX, b Nov. 18, 1859 Short Tract (Allegany Co.), NY d Apr. 15, 1951 Mt. Pleasant, MI m 1876 Alfred [Alford per Hans M. Hammer] McMullen b Feb. 1856 d after 1920. Information from Hans M. Hammer, Atlanta, GA and Martha Fordyce, Marion, MI. See 5:506.  
Issue (McMullen):  
A WILLIAM, b Oct. 12, 1877 d Dec. 14, 1878.  
+B MYRTLE NEVA, b 1888 d 1979 m 1909 Alvin Settle b 1882 d 1931.  
C FERNA B., b Nov. 1895 MI.

Her grandchildren:

1-6-25-117-392-1114-2743-B-D-B-C-A LINDA SUE FORDYCE, b Aug. 13, 1947 m Dec. 3, 1972 NYC Richard Jerome Elsroad b Mar. 28, 1937. Information from Martha Fordyce, Marion, MI.  
Issue (Elsroad):  
A DAVID, b Jun. 28, 1977.  
B MICHAEL, b Mar. 2, 1980.

## Fellow Members

### Re: Tour of England

I have received the following note from Richard Decker:

"I just got off the phone with Jim Boules of Ancestral Tours. He is the man that was responsible for making the arrangements for the tour we led in 1987. The tour was just great, and I think that maybe the Underhills are ready for another one. It would take some time to arrange, but it would be well worth it.

"I thought that maybe you could find out if there is enough interest. We would need about 24 people interested in going. The tour would be about 10-11 days long, and cover many of the Underhill home sites. Jim does a remarkable job at making contact with the people of the towns that are in Underhill country. Jim would be able to run a tour in May of 2002. The Society would need a leader to focus on the arrangements. That means we would have until mid year 2001 to decide if we are going. The cost would be in the order of \$3,000 each, including air fare and the tour. I'd like to go, and I'll help. I know most of the places and the routine, but I am not as mobile as I was and I don't know who would be interested in being the leader..

"Would you be free of the work on Volume 7 so that you could help and do you want to go?"

On the margin, Dick also penned the following:

"Maybe an article in the News & Views would get enough interest. If we had big meetings (100-200) it would be easy to find out. Let me know what you think. Dick."

If you are interested in such a tour, please e-mail me or write to the USOA Correspondence Secretary at:

PO Box 712  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771-0712

Carl J. Underhill  
E-mail: [emu@kvi.net](mailto:emu@kvi.net)

## DID YOU KNOW?

■ Our website <http://UnderhillSociety.underhill.net> has had 5387 visitors as of 12/19/00. When we met in Mystic, CT in October of 1999, the count was around 2700. We began counting October 1, 1997.

■ We changed the name to **Heritage Corner Gift Shop** on the website.

■ The website for the Mystic Voices Pequot War documentary project has a **News Update (17 October 2000)** posted. The URL address of the project website is <http://ourworld-top.cs.com/pequotwar/news.htm>. After scrolling down the page you will still find pictures of our president, George T. Underhill, Jr., and the Capt. John Underhill monument at the Underhill Family Burying Grounds in Oyster Bay, NY. The photo of George Underhill was taken last October following our annual meeting, during his on-camera interview at the historic Portersville Academy in Mystic, CT.



### **The update is prefaced with a Personal Note:**

*Since March of this year, my immediate family has experienced what might be best described as our own worst nightmare. Just before our April 1 filming at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, my wife was diagnosed with a potentially terminal disease. I personally appreciate all the thoughts and prayers of all those interested in this project, Native and non-Native. My family and I want to pledge to you all my continued dedication to this film. We feel that this is a story that must be told as passionately and objectively as possible. Despite personal setbacks, we have resolved to dedicate ourselves to the ultimate completion of this important project.*

*Charlie Clemmons, Co-Producer*

## 2001 SPRING BOARD MEETING

The 2001 Spring Board Meeting will be held in Oyster Bay, New York on Saturday, March 31, 2001 at 10:00 AM.

## 2001 ANNUAL MEETING

The Board has approved San Antonio, Texas as our meeting place next year. October has been suggested as the time of year, but that month is fairly well booked in San Antonio. So Don and Diane Underhill are working to look at various facilities and confirm a date.

At the 2000 Annual Meeting Mary de Marigny and Hope Conley agreed to serve on a committee, with Don and Diane, to investigate future sites for Annual Meetings.

## PUBLISHING VOLUMES VII AND VIII of the Underhill Genealogy

We are getting close to the finale for this project! It started out to be just Volume VII, but the number of pages has ballooned to approximately 1300 to 1400. Some publishers that we have contacted for cost estimates have recommended splitting the work into two volumes, rather than having one huge volume.

As soon as we receive all of the estimates, and decide on which publisher to use, we'll prepare a pre-publication announcement. Our website will also carry this announcement.

## DESCRIPTIVE INVENTORIES OF THE UNDERHILL COLLECTION

John Catanzariti, our archivist at the museum in Oyster Bay, has sent inventories to Mel Underhill for posting on our website. These are preliminary descriptions of portions of the collection of the Underhill Society of America. Housed in the Society's archive at 107 East Main Street in Oyster Bay, New York, the collection includes artifacts, manuscripts and records, images (including numerous photographs), and books collected since the Society's founding in 1892. The inventories, compiled during the last decade by the late Julia Clark and by Laura Black, are now being revised and expanded by John Catanzariti, and new and updated listings will be posted on our site from time to time.

Inquiries concerning the Society's holdings should be directed to the Archivist at [jrcat@att.net](mailto:jrcat@att.net)."