



THE  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY  
of Cincinnati  
and  
Hamilton County

150  
1853-2003

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

800 Vine Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
45202-2071

Richard L. Helmes  
Phone•513•369•6959  
Fax•513•369•4565  
rick.helmes@cincinnati.library.org  
or  
Phyllis Hegner  
Phone•513•369•4571  
Fax•513•369•4565

### ***The Whitewater Shakers: A Look at How They Did Business with the World*** **at the Harrison Branch Library Monday, September 8, 7:00 p.m.**

August 22, 2003

The Whitewater Shaker Settlement in New Haven, Ohio was the fourth and last Shaker community established in Ohio in 1825 with 18 people on 40 acres of land. Located near Miami-Whitewater Forest and owned by the Hamilton County Park District, recent efforts to restore and reopen the settlement to the public have been underway for the past two years. A free program at the Harrison Branch Library, 10398 New Haven Road, on Monday, September 8, 7:00 p.m. will feature author Richard Spence as he presents **The Whitewater Shakers: A Look at How they Did Business with the World**. The program is part of the "Celebrate Ohio: 1803-2003" series at the branch.

Spence is co-author of the book *Maps of the Shaker West: A Journey of Discovery*, which presents maps of Shaker sites. Computer generated maps of the sites (except White-Water) relate the Shaker holdings to modern maps and were crafted by co-author Dale Covington, along with text by Martha Boice.

All Shaker roads lead from Manchester, England. After suffering much for her religious views, Mother Ann Lee left Manchester with a small band of eight followers in 1774. She had visions that told her that her religion would flourish in America. Her small group eventually settled near Albany, New York. Originally known as the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, the sect's name became shortened to "Shakers" because of the shaking and jerking which was an integral part of their worship.

In 1805 the Shaker movement was directed to the West throughout Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. Starting with the demise of West Union in 1827 and North Union in 1889, all the major Western Shaker communities were vacated by 1922 when South Union

closed. Because of their early formation and short duration, little is known of the smaller Western Shaker communities such as Eagle Creek and Darby Plains.

The Friends of Whitewater Shaker Village is also featuring an exhibit of the Shaker lifestyle, including artifacts and photographs, at the branch through September 10. The group has been working for the past two years to get the mothballed Whitewater Village in Miami-Whitewater Forest restored so the public can enjoy its history.

For more information on this free program, contact the branch at (513) 369-4442.

✓ **Information about the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org).**