White Water Shaker Village was established near Harrison, Ohio in 1822 and thrived until 1916 when the community closed. The community’s buildings, all of which still exist unlike the other four Shaker villages founded in Ohio, are sentinels to a bygone era. Twenty-two Shaker-built structures survive including two dwellings, three shops, the only brick Shaker meeting house, a trustee’s office, barns, corn cribs, smoke houses, milk houses and others. White Water is important because so much remains in its original, rural agricultural context.

Our Mission
To preserve, restore and open the Shaker buildings and surrounding grounds known as the North Family of White Water 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 historical legacy.

Join us in protecting and preserving the White Water Shaker Village
A gem of southwest Ohio’s past.

Yes! I would like to join the Friends of White Water Shaker Village, Inc.

Mail to Friends of White Water Shaker Village: PO Box 6714; Cincinnati, OH 45262

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Charles Sturr, right, one of the last Elders at White Water, would most certainly approve your support and membership in the Friends of White Water to help insure that we and our children know and appreciate what the Shakers have given us.

For further information contact the
Friends of White Water Shaker Village, Inc.
Richard Spence, President, 513-772-7974
James Innis, Vice President, 513-738-8764

P.O. Box 62714; Cincinnati, Ohio 45262
www.whitewatershakervillage.org

Membership Categories
❏ Student ($10)
❏ Single ($25)
❏ Family ($50)
❏ Sponsor ($100)
❏ White Water Society ($1,000+)

Additional rewards are described below:

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Who were the Shakers?

Persecuted in England for exuberant worship, Mother Ann Lee’s small band of “Shaking Quakers” arrived in Albany, NY in 1774. Formally known as the United Society of Christ’s Second Appearing, this religious communal society quickly grew into 24 self-sufficient villages under the able leaders that followed Mother Ann. Known today as the “Shakers”, these people chose a peaceful way of life separated from the world and are admired for their simplicity, work ethic and material culture.

The Shakers at White Water

The Shakers came to southwestern Ohio in 1805 and were drawn by a Methodist revival to southern Butler County in 1822. The community found a permanent home along the Dry Fork of the White Water River where they built their brick meeting house in 1827 and the brick dwelling in 1832. The community prospered, expanding to three semi-autonomous Shaker families over the next twenty years. After the community closed in 1916, the land and buildings were sold to area farmers. The Hamilton County Park District purchased a large part of the site in 1989-1991.

Our challenges at White Water

Responding to public interest in the White Water Shaker community, the Friends of White Water Shaker Village was organized in 2002. In 2007, the Friends leased the North Family buildings and acreage from the HCPD to preserve and restore these historically and architecturally significant structures with their land and open them to the public. The Friends of White Water Shaker Village receives no financial support from the Hamilton County Park District.

How you can help

- The Friends of White Water Shaker Village is an IRS 501(c)(3) corporation. Your donations are exempt from state and federal taxes.
- Donations of White Water Shaker furniture, manuscripts, images, artifacts and ephemera are gratefully received. Such donations will greatly assist in understanding and interpreting the story of the White Water Shakers.
- Donations of cash or appreciated stock may be made to the Friends of White Water Shaker Village Fund at the Greater Cincinnati Foundation: (513) 241-2880 or <www.greatercincinnatifdn.org>.