

Tyringham Fact Sheet

By Stephen J. Paterwic

From a talk given on July 21, 2012, on the Tyringham Shakers, at Union Church, Tyringham, sponsored by Bidwell House Museum.

1792 — Started to be gathered into full gospel order

1793 — First Family of the Church fully gathered

1793-1799 — Second Family of the Church gradually gathered

1808-1810 — North House organized as either a Mill Family or a Novitiate Family

1826 — South House organized as millworks for the Church Family.

Total acreage: At least 1,000 acres, but likely as much as 750 more acres during the period of great expansion.

Bishopric: Hancock

Spiritual or Mystical Name Given in 1842: The City of Love

Name of Spiritual Feast Ground (the holy hill): Mount Horeb

Maximum population for certain: 107 in 1840

Maximum number of adults for certain: 73 in 1820

Industries: seeds, dried herbs, dried sweet corn, measures and cheese hoops, and brooms.

Families:

1792-1875 — First Family of the Church or Church Family, with a branch at the South House (1826-1836)

1799-1862 — Second Family of the Church or Second Family, with a branch at the North House (ca. 1808-1837). After the North House merged into the Second Family, the name North Family seems to be used interchangeably with the Second Family but this might reflect non-Shaker usage.

Last Shaker: Elizabeth Thornber (1837-1920). When Tyringham dissolved, unlike most of the other survivors, she and another sister moved to Hancock, Massachusetts.