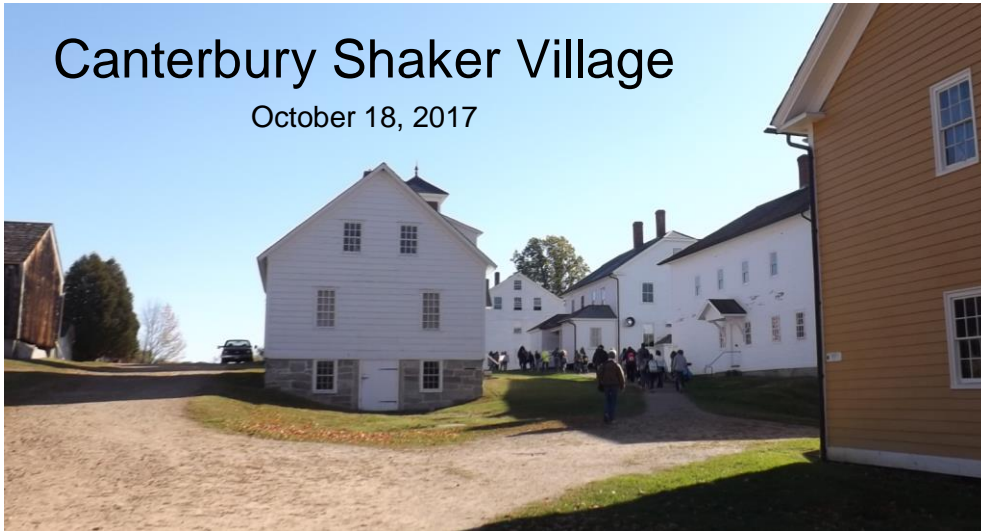


# Canterbury Shaker Village

October 18, 2017

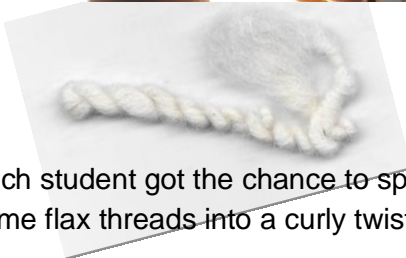


Thirty Jennie D. Blake students from grades 4-6 spent a beautiful day at Canterbury Village, learning about how the Shakers made use of the gardens and woodlands to produce goods necessary to sustain themselves and sell for profit.

On this day's "tour", students explored several shops and the large gardens.



Members of the Shaker Community were known for being hard-working and creative and for their careful use of resources. At one stop, students learned how to process flax plants into long threads to weave into coarse burlap and fine linen.



Each student got the chance to spin some flax threads into a curly twist.



Students learned that in the Shaker community, everyone lived in large communal residences and ate together in the big dining rooms. In the large kitchens, we saw the big ovens built to maximize space and (relative) ease of making massive amounts of food for the whole community.

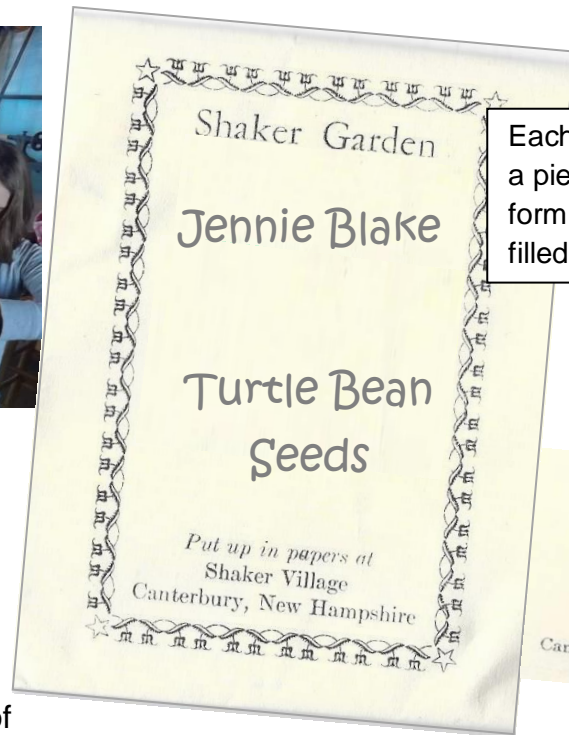
At its highest point, 300 people (men, women and children) lived and worked here. Apple pie was a favorite breakfast food... and each person was offered big chunks to keep their energy after working 2½ hours BEFORE breakfast.





Shakers are well-known for their innovative farm equipment (they have patents to over 375 inventions) and for their furniture and crafts.

They were very careful to keep quality seeds to maintain their crops. They sold these seeds in little packages made out of paper (a novel way instead of counting seeds out of a big barrel at every purchase).



Each student folded a piece of paper to form a packet and filled it with seeds.



In addition to large fields of grain for use in the community, huge gardens were kept. Many of the plants have medicinal uses (interesting that many of the "old-fashioned" ways of curing common illnesses still work!)

Some plants were used for crafts and some were used for flavored vinegars used in cooking and scented oils.

After a quick lunch, there was still time to explore more of the 25 buildings in the Village that are open for self-guiding tours.

It was a busy and exciting day exploring the offerings of the Shaker community.

