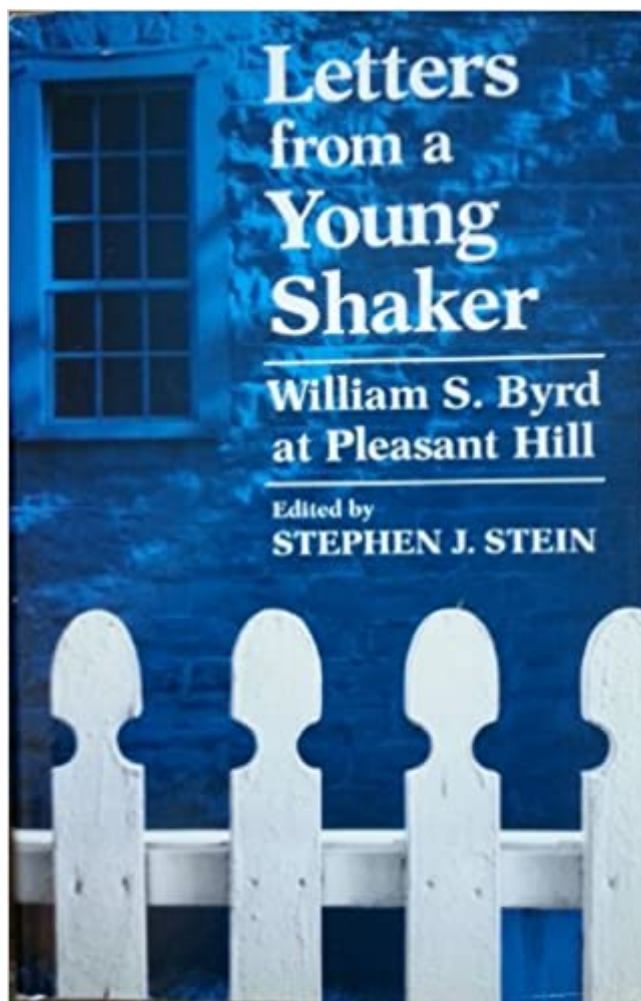


The book was found

# Letters From A Young Shaker: William S. Byrd At Pleasant Hill



## Synopsis

In the early nineteenth century, a young man belonging to the prominent Byrd family of Virginia, the grandson of William Byrd III, took up residence in the Shaker community at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky. Over the next two years, 1826â1828, he wrote a series of letters to his father, a federal judge in Ohio, describing his experiences and his impressions of the United Society of Believers, as the Shakers were formally called. Eventually, William S. Byrd became a convert to the society and an advocate of its beliefs and practices. His lettersâcut short by his father's deathâoffer today's reader an intimate view of communal life among the Shakers at a time of considerable turmoil in their village. In the correspondence of William S. Byrd, the Shaker experience is expressed in human terms and becomes a living faith. The letters also record the trials associated with conversion to a religion that was socially unacceptable to many Americans of the time. Some of their more poignant passages describe young Byrd's attempt to reconcile the tensions created by his membership in two familiesâthe one of blood and the one of faith. Letters from a Young Shaker provides an unusually instructive commentary on life in a Shaker community, on the questions agitating the community, and on the appeal of Shakerism to Americans in the early nineteenth century. In addition to the letters, the book contains other documents bearing on William Byrd's relationship with the settlement at Pleasant Hill and an introduction placing him in the social and religious context of the period. This book will appeal to historian of American society and to anyone interested in the Shaker way of life. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 165 pages

Publisher: Univ Pr of Kentucky; First Edition edition (October 1985)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813115426

ISBN-13: 978-0813115429

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #3,382,094 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Shaker](#) #2183 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > South](#) #2779 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Essays & Correspondence > Letters](#)

## Customer Reviews

"The nineteen letters from this unmarried man in his early twenties to his sympathetic father are articulate and poignant descriptions of a convert's short life in a Kentucky Shaker colony. Most of these letters deal with personal adjustments to the Spartan lifestyle, with glimpses into the problems and mores of the colony."âChurch History"A fascinating addition to any bookshelf of Kentucky history. Now that Pleasant Hill has been restored, it can add much insight and pleasure to a visit there."âAshland Independent"Stephen J. Stein, a professor of religious studies at Indiana University, supplies a helpful introduction, notes and appendixes that reveal a harrowing family context of suicide, poor health and early death."âNew York Times"Stein attempts to capture this young man's thoughts and to 'speculate about the possible role [he] might have played in the future intellectual leadership' of the Shakers."âSouthern Historian"Provides insights on daily life and conflict within Shakerism, and helps the modern reader understand something of the appeal the movement had to seekers."âAmerican Studies --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Stephen J. Stein is chancellor's professor, emeritus, of religious studies at Indiana University. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Letters from a Young Shaker: William S. Byrd at Pleasant Hill Discovery: The Story of the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition (Admiral Byrd Classics) Restoring Shakertown: The Struggle to Save the Historic Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill Shaker Communities of Kentucky: Pleasant Hill and South Union, The (KY) (Images of America) William Shakespeare's Star Wars Collection: William Shakespeare's Star Wars, William Shakespeare's The Empire Striketh Back, and William Shakespeare's The Jedi Doth Return The Complete Works of William Billings: The Continental Harmony (1794) (Billings, William//Complete Works of William Billings) The Complete Works of William Billings: The New-England Psalm-Singer (1770) (Billings, William//Complete Works of William Billings) The Complete Works of William Billings: The Psalm-Singer's Amusement (1781) (Billings, William//Complete Works of William Billings) SHAKER VILLAGE VIEWS: Illustrated Maps and Landscape Drawings by Shaker Artists of the Nineteenth Century A Shaker Family Album: Photographs from the Collection of Canterbury Shaker Village The Four Seasons of Shaker Life: An Intimate Portrait of the Community at Sabbathday Lake (Last Shaker Community) SHAKER COMMUNITIES, SHAKER LIVES In the Shaker Style: Building Furniture Inspired by the Shaker Tradition (In The Style) The Best of Shaker Cooking: Over 900 Easy-to-Prepare Favorites from

Nineteenth-Century Shaker Kitchens Shaker Your Plate: Of Shaker Cooks and Cooking From  
Shaker Lands and Shaker Hands: A Survey of the Industries Shaker Woodenware: A Field Guide  
(Field Guides to Collecting Shaker Antiques) (Volume 1) The Blender Shaker Bottle Recipe Book:  
Over 125 Protein Powder Shake Recipes Everyone Can Use for Vitality, Optimum Nutrition and  
Restorationâ for Blender Bottle, Cup & Shaker Bottle with Ball Footsteps on the Ice: The Antarctic  
Diaries of Stuart D. Paine, Second Byrd Expedition Clayton Byrd Goes Underground

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)