

# The Shaker Movement

- Origins dated back to the Revolutionary era
- Ann Lee Stanley, known as Mother Ann, had a vision which led to the creation of the Shakers
  - She dreamed that she was incarnated as christ and that Adam and Eve were banished from Eden because of lust
  - Led a band of followers to Albany NY, and established a church
  - Took the name of Shakers, which was a simplified version of “Shaking Quakers”



# Shaker Society

- Believed that the second coming of Christ was to come soon, and Shakers withdrew from society
  - Left society and formed strict communities of believers
- Society was ruled by a strict government of the church
  - Eliminated marriage and encouraged celibacy
    - Celibacy-the state of being unmarried.
  - Members abstained from:
    - Alcohol
    - Tobacco
    - Politics
    - War



# Shaker Beliefs

- It was a belief that God was a dual person with both a male and female side
  - Some believed that Mother Ann was the representation of the female side
- This dual person doctrine provided a base for the elimination of the distinctions between women and men
  - The governing of the community was the responsibility of both men and women
    - The Elder and Eldress
- In Labor respects, traditional distinction was still maintained

# Shaker Communities

- Communities were formed within-
  - New England
  - New York
  - Ohio
- Their labor and craftsmanship gave the Shakers a reputation in society
  - Agriculture
  - Crafts
  - Furniture Making
- Many communities were able to become comfortable self-sustaining areas
- Because of stable economy and the belief of sexual equality, many people converted to and joined Shakers in their communities
  - Attracted both whites and African Americans

# End of Shaker Movement

- Converts and adopted orphans were the only source of gaining new members
  - Because families did not have children, orphans were taken in
  - Eventually sources of gaining new converts vanished
- By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the Shaker Community had disappeared

