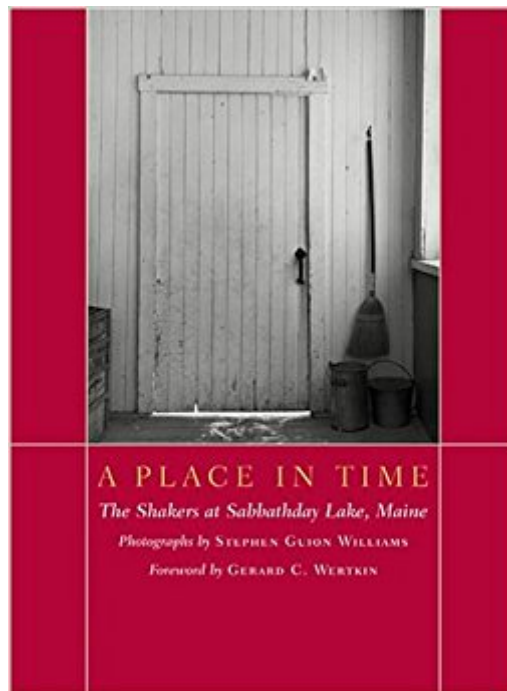




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A Place In Time: The Shakers At Sabbathday Lake, Maine (Pocket Paragon)



Synopsis

Sabbathday Lake, one of the 19 original Shaker sites in America, was founded in 1794. While all the other sites are now historical re-creations, this hamlet in Maine continues as the vital center of the faith in the 21st century. The photographer Stephen G. Williams has been visiting these Shakers since the early 1970s, drawing spiritual strength from their habits of work and prayer, and artistic inspiration from their quest for harmony, economy, and perfection. "This book," says Williams, "is an endeavor to convey in photographic form my idea of Shakerism: simplicity, beauty, and grace." In its splendid sparseness - a beauty borne of stripping away the inessentials - it fully achieves that end.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stephen Guion Williams was born in New York City and grew up in Old Chatham, New York, home as well to the Shaker Museum and Library. He began photographing at the University of Kansas, where he was influenced by documentary and photojournalistic currents. After working as a photographer for a number of national magazines, he founded and co-directed the Photography Place in Berwyn and Philadelphia, a focal point of his work for twelve years. During that time he was associate professor of photography at Rosemount College and at the University of Delaware. His previous books are *Chosen Land: The Sabbathday Lake Shakers* (with an afterword by Sister Mildred Baker) and *In the Middle: The Eskimo Today* (with an introduction by Edmund Carpenter), both published by Godine. His photographs have been exhibited nationally and internationally and

have been included in the permanent collections of the University of Michigan Library and the Haverford College Library, as well as numerous museums and institutional collections. He is currently a family therapist with KS Consultants and CCT, Inc.

That the Shakers' world could coexist with our world of cell phones, iPods, internet connections, and plasma TVs -- the science fiction future of my youth -- is inexplicable. Yet Stephen Williams's spare and elegant photographs of the Shaker community stop us in our harried pace and remind us of the pure pleasure of contemplating both these extraordinary images and the unhurried world they represent. -- Stephen Perloff, Editor, The Photo Review

Beautiful and moving images and stories of life standing still but spirit evolving. You'll want to look at these photographs time and time again and let them fill your soul.

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