

Evan Shelby, born 1828

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill

by Vickie Cimprich

Deacon Elhannon picked Evan up that day
they threw him off the steamboat at Louisville.
There he was, looked to be eight or nine.
Said he was fifteen and free. Deacon said,
Look sharp. Act like you belong with us.

Through the day we loaded up our store.
By that evening, Zachariah said,
You want to go to Pleasant Hill with us?
What's Pleasant Hill? he said. *Why certainly.*

Turned out he was more or less eleven.
He believed, in 1839. All judged
he was an upright man. Good singing voice.
Testified some during Mother's Work.
Then in the spring of 1843,
when he had to shave he up and left.

The greater part of us had hoped
the steamboat let him on this time.