



SCANTLINGS

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Passages: Kim Shenton

ALLISON AURAND

At the dawn of the new year, the timber framing community got a little smaller. Kim Shenton, of M&K Timber Works, passed away at the age of 60.

Kim met her husband Mike when they were both in their early 30s, and they built a beautiful life together—and timber framing was an integral part of that life. Working side by side, they raised timber frames, with a home base first in Maryland, and later in North Carolina. Kim invested her boundless energy in every aspect of their business, doing everything from sanding and mortising timbers to office work to putting her hand to every raising, large or small.

She made it possible for Mike to pursue his passion for timber framing—an enthusiastic co-conspirator—and through their work as timber framers, she helped people realize their dreams of having a timber frame. Kim touched everyone she met, and, as many in this community do, became lifelong friends with her clients. Mike says he always thought it was fate that they met because Kim told him that as a teenager she had always dreamed of meeting a man and building a log cabin together, and he too had dreamed of meeting a special girl and building a log cabin together.

Mike and Kim did everything together, best friends and soul mates. He says he always told her he believed we all get that one great love in our lives, and she was it. At the celebration of her life at the end of March, Mike shared a poem he wrote for her during a break up before they got married. He says it rings truer now than ever, and hope is what he has left—the hope that he will see her in the next life.

A Love Lost

As I sit and stare out my window

Reflections of you flash out at me

Renewing all the pain in my heart

But warming my soul with sweet memories

My heart has been torn asunder

Only your velvet touch can ever heal it

Like a ship lost at sea in the fog

I wander aimlessly through daily chores

As if all life has been taken from me

Only my hopes and dreams of you

Keeps me from withering to dust

For hope is all I have now

If that hope is lost, I am lost



Kim & Mike Shenton.



"I have very few pictures of Kim working because she was usually the one taking the photos, but work she did. She always outworked all of us, and I would have to force her to quit for the day." Mike Shenton



Kim is survived by her husband Mike; beloved daughter Brynn and husband Scott; stepdaughter Tina and husband Pal; step-son Zachary and wife Karen; four grandchildren; and her sister Karin.

Mike and Kim built two timber frames for themselves and had planned to build one last 900 sq. ft. timber frame in the Blue Ridge Mountains they call home. To read more about Kim's life and hear about her in Mike's own words, visit the M&K Facebook page ([facebook.com/MK-Timber-Works](https://www.facebook.com/MK-Timber-Works)). Mike writes that Kim was such an integral part of his timber framing life that "I am questioning whether to continue after I finish the ones to which I am currently obligated." We know we speak on behalf of the entire Guild as we send our prayers and support to Mike at this time.