



...NEWS from the Village

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For Immediate Release..... February 26, 2015

New Director of Education announced at Hancock Shaker Village

PITTSFIELD, MA.....Hancock Shaker Village announces **Cindy Dickinson** will join the senior staff of the museum as **Director of Education**, effective March 23, 2015.

A consummate public educator, Dickinson holds undergraduate degrees from Princeton University and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, as well as a Master's Degree in Early American Culture from the prestigious Winterthur Program at the University of Delaware. She is a resident of Pittsfield.

Dickinson comes to Hancock Shaker Village from the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst, MA, where she has held a variety of positions since 1996, including director of education and curator. The Dickinson Museum is owned and operated by the Trustees of Amherst College.

“I have been fortunate to play a leading role in the interpretation and operations management of a significant site in American history,” Dickinson says of her years devoted to the Dickinson family compound and one of America’s greatest literary figures.

“Assuming leadership of education and programming at Hancock allows me to advance public engagement at a leading Shaker site and to showcase its architecture, stories and collections. I look forward to this new experience and want nothing more than to grow the audience and our offerings.”

Dickinson has developed a wide range of educational programs, including interpretive and furnishings plans, guided-tour content, K through 12 teacher training, and community-outreach programs, including a lively public program with the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read.

At Hancock Shaker Village, she will shape the interpretive experience for visitors, as well as recruit and train the educational interpreters and volunteers who engage visitors to the historic Village.

About the Village

Hancock Shaker Village celebrates its 55th year as a living-history museum. The museum re-opens to the public on Saturday, April 11, with its much-loved Baby Animals exhibit. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm. Children ages 12 and under are free on family visits, thanks to support from Berkshire Bank. Adult admission is \$20. Many discounts apply. Register for one of our Behind-the-Scenes Farm Tours, held daily at 1 pm and on weekends at 11

am and 1 pm, by visiting our website, hancockshakervillage.org. Go to Programs & Events and then to Shaker Adventures, or click on Baby Animals. Call 413-443-0188 x 0, to register by phone.

From 1784 until 1959, Hancock Shaker Village, known as The City of Peace, was home to hundreds of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing (commonly called Shakers because of the whirling, quaking and "shaking" they exhibited during their religious services). Since 1960, the Village has operated as a living-history museum preserving the Shaker legacy. While only a few Shakers are still living (and none live at Hancock), they are best-known today for their simple and elegant furniture and many ingenious inventions.

Located on 750 acres in the beautiful Berkshires of Massachusetts, Hancock Shaker Village offers so much to see and do, including:

- 20 historic authentic buildings in a preserved rural setting.
- Museum collections that include more than 20,000 authentic Shaker artifacts.
- A rotating schedule of exhibits, programs, tours and workshops.
- A working farm with heritage-breed livestock, and extensive gardens of heirloom vegetables, flowers and herbs.
- A mile-long hiking trail that winds through farmland and forests.
- Indoor and outdoor picnic areas.

- A Café that serves lunch and snacks, including ice cream, and the Village Store, both open every day.

Photo attached/ no credit necessary



Cindy Dickinson, Director of Education at Hancock Shaker Village