

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Gina Hyams, Hancock Shaker Village PR Consultant

413.464.2851

ginahyams@gmail.com

Images available upon request.

**Hancock Shaker Village to Host Willis Henry Auctions Annual Shaker Event
2012 Auction to feature the Shaker Collection of Dr. JJ Gerald McCue**

Pittsfield, MA—On Saturday, September 8 at 1:00pm, Willis Henry Auctions will present the Shaker Collection of Drs. J. J. Gerald and Miriam McCue at an auction to be held at Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, MA. Previews are scheduled for Friday, September 7 from 11:00am to 5:00pm, and again on Saturday, September 8 from 10:00am to 12:30pm. Admission is free.

The McCue Collection began in 1948 and grew from an initial purchase of approximately six pieces from Faith and Edward Deming Andrews, who were seminal collectors and scholars in the Shaker studies field. The McCues also pursued direct purchases from existing Shaker communities, including Canterbury, NH, Sabbathday Lake, ME, and Hancock, MA. This unique collection has never been previously offered.

The September 8 event will be Session One of the sale of the McCue Collection, and highlights original Shaker furniture and artifacts, many of which have been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Highlights include: a Red Sewing Desk purchased from Sister Eleanor Philbrick in 1953 (last used by Sister Jennie Mathers of the Sabbathday Lake Shakers); a rare Stand-up Shaker Desk in original green paint signed “Alfred Collier” from the Harvard, MA Shaker Community; a rare Production Rocking Bench with taped seat and back; a Cupboard Over Drawers in original red stain; a Cupboard Over Cupboard in a deep red finish; a Blanket Chest attributed to Grove Wright with original grain paint; a paneled Orange/Red Blanket Chest; a fine Enfield, NH One-drawer Stand; a rare Trustee’s Desk; a Red

Blanket Chest on Base with Hancock, MA history purchased from the Andrews; outstanding Woodbox in yellow paint purchased at Sabbathday Lake, ME; a large Red Work Table with Sabbathday Lake, ME history; along with painted Pails, Oval Boxes, Work Utensils, Hangers, Poplar and Paper Boxes, and a rare Spool Holder with original spools and silk thread.

The auction will also feature a small Ministry Trestle Table from Harvard, MA, which was purchased from Edna H. Little Greenwood, who mentored the McCues in their early collecting years, and was the cornerstone of their superb Shaker collection.

Hancock Shaker Village, the Shaker “City of Peace,” brings the Shaker story to life and preserves it for future generations. It portrays principled living, as embodied in the faith-based values of the Shakers – equality, community, sustainability, and responsible land stewardship of their resources—values that resonate today. The Village is located on Route 20 in Pittsfield, MA, just west of the junction of Routes 20 and 41. For GPS purposes, the Village is located at 34 Lebanon Mountain Rd., Hancock, Mass. 01237. Or, enter 1843 W. Housatonic St., Pittsfield, Mass. 01201 then proceed 1/2 mile further West on Rt. 20 to the parking lot.

For more information, see www.willishenry.com or www.hancockshakervillage.org.

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