



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2013

Media Contact:
Laura Wolf, Director of Operations & Marketing
413.443.0188 x213
lwolf@hancockshakervillage.org

Images available upon request.

Opening Weekend of Baby Animals Has Record Attendance at Hancock Shaker Village

Pittsfield, Mass.—Nearly 2,000 visitors enjoyed the first weekend of Baby Animals on the Shaker Farm this past Saturday and Sunday, a 15% increase over the previous opening weekend record set in 2010. Village guests were greeted by the baby lambs, calves, goats, ducklings, and chicks that have taken up residence in the Round Stone Barn through May 5th. Two litters of piglets are expected to join the throng this week.

Director of Farm and Facilities Bill Mangiardi's premium Behind-the-Scenes Farm Tours, which include a narrated hayride that travels the 1-mile Farm & Forest Trail with animals aboard, proved especially popular, filled to capacity both days. Behind-the-Scenes Tours are offered daily at 2pm, with additional 10am tours available on weekends and during Massachusetts school vacation week.

Enrollment is still available in many of the scheduled tours.

“After an extended winter season, Baby Animals is a welcome signal of Spring for Berkshire families,” said Hancock Shaker Village President Linda Steigleder. “The David Grover concerts arranged by Greylock Federal Credit Union on opening day got us all off to a great start.” Winter weather on Friday left a thin coating of snow on the ground that was still visible as the gates opened on Saturday, but did not deter the crowds.

Upcoming special events within the Baby Animals festival include a book signing by author Jana Laiz, writer in residence at Herman Melville's Arrowhead on Sunday, April 21st. Laiz will debut her new children's book, Thomas and Autumn, about a little boy and his chicken. The Village will also present Sheep Shearing Days on Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28th. More information about scheduled activities can be found at the museum's website, www.hancockshakervillage.org.

ABOUT HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE

An outdoor history museum and educational resource situated on a picturesque expanse of farm, field, and woodland in Pittsfield, Mass., Hancock Shaker Village affords visitors authentic experiences in 20 historic buildings, heirloom medicinal and vegetable gardens, and with 22,000 examples of Shaker furniture, crafts, tools, and more. This National Historic Landmark depicts daily life at the Shakers' City of Peace through its 220 years. Partake of guided tours, craft and cooking demonstrations, lectures, workshops, hikes on interpreted trails, and a Discovery Room with hand-on activities for children. Stop by for lunch at the Village Harvest Café and find gifts and souvenirs in the Village Store. An interactive Village audio tour is available in English, French, Italian, and German. Additionally, HSV offers an executive every-other weekend Master of Science in Design & Historic Preservation program in collaboration with UMASS Amherst; see www.umass.edu/preservation for more information about degree and elective coursework and opportunities.

HOURS, ADMISSION, AND DIRECTIONS

Hancock Shaker Village is open daily for self-guided visits from April 13 through October 27. April 13 through June 30, the Village is open 10:00am to 4:00pm daily and July 1 through October 27, hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm daily.

Hancock Shaker Village members are admitted free of charge. Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge courtesy of Berkshire Bank. Admission for adults is \$17 (\$18 as of May 25th) and youth visitors aged 13 to 17 are \$8.

Hancock Shaker Village is located on Route 20 in Pittsfield, Mass., 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.

####