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Contact: Laura Wolf, Director of Marketing, Hancock Shaker Village
(413) 443-0188 ext. 213; lwolf@hancockshakervillage.org
Diane Laurin, 413-358-1149; diane@laurincommunications.com

Hancock Shaker Village presents *Gather Up The Fragments: The Andrews Shaker Collection*

"Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."
John 6:12

PITTSFIELD, Mass. – On May 24, Hancock Shaker Village will open *Gather Up the Fragments: The Andrews Shaker Collection*, an exhibit of one of the most significant collections of Shaker objects, showcasing rare pieces never before seen by the public.

Gather Up the Fragments features over 250 pieces of Shaker furniture, printed works, visual art, tools, textiles and small craft collected over four decades by Edward Deming Andrews and his wife, Faith Young Andrews, renowned scholars, collectors and dealers. The Collection became the lifetime passion of the Andrews who were struck by the beauty of the objects in a Shaker kitchen they chanced to visit in 1923. The result of their work is the most comprehensive collection of Shaker materials ever assembled.

From the 1920s through the 1960s, the Andrews actively pursued Shaker objects, gathering pieces from the Shakers themselves, all at a time when the art and artifacts of the Shakers were not considered to be serious art. They produced numerous pioneering publications that

examined many facets of Shaker life, and in effect launched the field of Shaker studies.

The Andrews were among the first to recognize the unique contributions of the Shakers to American culture. The story of how they acquired and eventually disposed of their collection is a fascinating tale of intrigue, promises made and broken, relationships, friendships, ethics, passion and scholarship.

Gather Up the Fragments is accompanied by a 400 page full-color book published by Yale University Press and authored by Mario S. DePillis, professor emeritus of the University of Massachusetts/Amherst, and Christian Goodwillie, curator of collections at the Hancock Shaker Village. The book is the first to document the Andrews collection, presenting some 600 photographs, most never before published.

The book and the exhibition reveal the extraordinary story of how the Andrews collected their Shaker pieces, their relationships with members of the Shaker communities and with some of New York's prominent art-world figures in the 1930s and 40s. Edward and Faith Andrews were intent on saving a distinct culture, and they succeeded in preserving for future generations the most comprehensive body of knowledge ever assembled about the Shakers.

Edward Andrews died in 1964, and his wife, Faith, died in 1990 in Pittsfield, Mass., where she was born.

Hancock Shaker Village received the majority of the Andrews' Shaker Collection which consisted of furniture, textiles, and the important "Gift Drawings" including the now-iconic "Tree of Life" image. *Gather Up the Fragments* also includes loaned objects from private collections and

pieces from Winterthur and the Museum of American Decorative Arts in Bath, England. Specific objects, particularly those whose acquisition was documented by Faith Andrews in her book *Fruits of the Shaker Tree of Life*, will be exhibited in the context of their addition to the Andrews Collection.

The exhibition will be on view at Hancock Shaker Village in the Chace Gallery from May 24 through October 31, 2008. Admission to the Village is \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for youth 13-17. Children 12 and under are free. Hancock Shaker Village members are always admitted free. The Florence Gould Café will be open during the exhibition and The Village Store will be featuring the exhibit catalogue and handcrafted Shaker reproductions, folk art, furniture, books, decorative accessories, fine art prints, toys, foods, and heirloom seeds and garden supplies.

Hancock Shaker Village, in Pittsfield, Mass., is a renowned cultural and historic attraction with 1200 acres of farm, fields and woodlands. The fully restored Village has 20 buildings, 22,000 examples of Shaker furniture, crafts, tools and clothes, heritage farm animals and spectacular gardens, a living testimony to the simple, sustainable lifestyle of the Shakers that serves as a model today. The Village has tours, craft and cooking demonstrations, festivals, lectures and a variety of activities for children and families appropriate to every season, as well the Florence Gould Café and the Village Store.

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