

Peer-to-Peer: A Forum for Shaker Collectors

Friday, July 12, 9 am–3 pm

\$120/public

\$105/members

Program fee includes admission to the Village and lunch

In conjunction with the Willis Henry Shaker Auction, Hancock Shaker Village presents Peer-to-Peer, a thought-provoking program for experienced and burgeoning collectors alike. Featuring talks, tours, and behind-the-scenes views into Hancock's world-famous collection, Peer-to-Peer is a rich opportunity to learn from experts and connect with other collectors in the field of Shaker design and material culture.

The theme of this year's forum is chasing down the story. Our three featured presenters, Richard Dabrowski, Stephen J. Paterwic, and Glendyne Wergland, will present talks highlighting various research methods that build provenance and illuminate the hidden histories embedded within objects.

Peer-to-Peer Schedule:

8:45 am: Check-in opens at the Visitors' Center

9 am: Coffee and light refreshments

9:15 am: *Don't Believe Everything You Hear (or Read)*, Stephen Paterwic

10:30 am: *Meeting Isaac*, Glendyne Wergland

11:45 am: *A Tale of Three Tables*, Richard Dabrowski

1 pm: Farm-to-table Shaker lunch

2 pm: A behind-the-scenes look at the Hancock Shaker Village collection in the Brick Dwelling

Willis Henry Auction Schedule:

Previews: Thursday, July 11, 1–5 pm; Friday, July 12, 10 am–5 pm; Saturday, July 13, 10–11:30 am

Auction: Saturday, July 13, 12–5 pm

To Register:

Web: hancockshakervillage.org/event/peer-to-peer-a-collectors-forum

Phone: Hannah Schockmel, Development Associate, 413.443.0188 x115

Detailed Program Information:

Don't Believe Everything You Hear (or Read)

Presented by Stephen Paterwic

Hunting down the story of the Shakers can be daunting. Honed by five decades of searching for verifiable truths, the only conclusion is that, too often, all is not what it has been made to appear. For example, the Shakers did not live in places like the posed rooms we often see, and they were not all fine craftspeople and good money managers. After the 1850s, did more than a handful of Shakers ever see the iconic *Tree of Life* that is now a widespread logo? This talk will explore these

and other myths, uncovering new insights and false pathways. Audience input will be encouraged as a way to discuss the ongoing desire to see the Shakers a certain way.

Stephen Paterwic's father grew up on an out-farm of the Enfield, Connecticut Shakers. This connection helped him to develop a lifelong interest in the Shakers, which began formally when he was in high school. His quest first brought him to Canterbury, New Hampshire, then to Sabbathday Lake, Maine, where he found the Believers who have shaped his life. Steve taught for forty years, mostly in the Springfield area. He was chair of mathematics at the HS of Technology in Springfield and consulted on math books for the Great Source division of Houghton-Mifflin Company. He serves as a trustee of Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village and is a member of the Collections Committee at Hancock Shaker Village.

Meeting Isaac

Presented by Glendyne Wergland

Glendyne takes an in-depth look into the life and work of Isaac Newton Youngs (1793–1865), a prolific writer, inventor, and maker within the Mount Lebanon Church Family. Using manuscripts, journals, and objects in the collection of Hancock Shaker Village, she will piece together a biography of Youngs that illuminates the social and cultural context of his time. What emerges is a complex portrait of an ordinary man striving to live up to the imperatives of his faith.

Glendyne Wergland graduated from Mount Holyoke College magna cum laude and received her PhD from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The author of *One Shaker Life: Isaac Newton Youngs, 1793–1865* and *Sisters in the Faith: Shaker Women and Equality of the Sexes*, she works as an indexer and editor. She is currently annotating the New Lebanon Ministry journals for publication.

A Tale of Three Tables

Presented by Richard Dabrowski

When the Great Stone Dwelling at the Enfield, New Hampshire, Shaker community was completed in 1841, the dining room was furnished with four tables unique to the Enfield community, each measuring more than twenty-one feet long. Three tables remained in the dining room until the village closed in 1923. This illustrated talk describes research on the history of each table, which assisted Enfield Shaker Museum in its decision to acquire one of the tables at the Sotheby's auction in January 2019.

Richard Dabrowski is president of Shaker Workshops, a small furniture company based in Ashburnham, Massachusetts that produces measured reproductions of original Shaker furniture and oval boxes. His first introduction to the Shakers was at a “World's People's Dinner” at Hancock Shaker Village in 1978. He has had a long-time interest in the unique Shaker craft of poplar ware and, more recently, as a volunteer has coordinated the historic preservation program at Enfield Shaker Museum.