

# Gather Up the Fragments

## The Andrews Shaker Collection



Oval boxes, various painted finishes  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village



Pail  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village



Rocking chair  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village

*"Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."*

John 6:12, King James Version

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

This exhibition organized by Hancock Shaker Village (HSV) features more than 200 objects including several of the iconic Shaker Gift Drawings, but also humble household objects, textiles, baskets, kitchen implements, furniture and rare pieces never before exhibited publicly, illustrating the sheer breadth and depth of the Andrews' collecting activity. This exhibition moves beyond an examination of Shaker form and addresses the Andrews' relationship with some of the country's leading cultural organizations, educational institutions and the

Shakers themselves, examining their oftentimes conflicting roles as both scholars and voracious collectors.

From the 1920s through the 1960s, the Andrews actively pursued Shaker objects lecting mainly from the Shakers themselves. Their efforts resulted in numerous publications, nearly all of which were pioneering scholarly works that examined multiple facets of Shaker life and launched the field of Shaker studies. Perhaps their primary legacy is two major collections of Shaker materials. These collections, consisting of Shaker manuscripts, printed works, visual art, furniture, textiles, and craft, comprise the most comprehensive collection of Shaker materials ever assembled.

**Hancock Shaker Village** was the primary recipient of the portion of the Andrews Shaker Collection which consists of furniture, textiles, gift drawings, and household objects.

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Edward Deming and Faith Andrews on the lawn outside their cottage in Richmond, Massachusetts. Collection of Hancock Shaker Village

Our goal in preparing this new exhibition is to bring together representative artifacts from the HSV collection and loaned objects from private collections to present together the most important body of Shaker materials ever assembled, creating a portal to gain insight into the Andrews' work and helping the public to understand the Andrews' complex role as pioneers in the field of Shaker studies.

Specific objects, particularly those whose acquisition was documented by Faith Andrews in her book *Fruits of the Shaker Tree of Life*, are exhibited in the context of their addition to the Andrews Collection. The exhibition examines the range of the Andrews scholarship, from their first article published in the August 1928 issue of *The Magazine Antiques*, through Faith Andrews' summary of their Shaker pursuits. *Gather Up the Fragments* delves respectfully into the Andrews' personal interactions with specific Shakers, mostly as friends, but occasionally as eager collectors whose presence could verge on intrusive. The story of the Andrews' relationship with the Shakers is examined comprehensively and honestly. As the Biblical phrase from which our title is drawn states, "that nothing be lost," *Gather Up the Fragments* examines the full scope of the Andrews' involvement with Shakerism, as scholars, collectors, and dealers.



Leather wallet with recipe  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village



Blue Shoe  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village

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Wall Clock  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village



Wooden screw press  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village



Cobbler's Bench  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village

**Hancock Shaker Village** recently celebrated its 50th anniversary as a living history museum and center for the study of principled living. Situated on a picturesque expanse of farm, field and woodland in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, the fully restored Village includes 18 historic buildings, heirloom

medicinal and vegetable gardens, 22,000 examples of Shaker furniture, crafts, tools and clothes that depict daily life at the Shakers' City of Peace through its 220 years, as well as heritage breed farm animals and spectacular hiking trails.

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### EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

**Number of Works:**

Approximately 201 objects

**Curator:**

Christian Goodwillie,  
former curator, Hancock Shaker Village

**Requirements:**

Moderate security  
3,500 square feet

**Participation Fee:**

\$75,000  
(please inquire for discounted fee from  
May 2012 to June 2012, and possible  
tour extension)

**Booking Period:**

12 weeks

**Shipping:**

IA&A makes all shipping arrangements;  
exhibitors pay outgoing  
shipping

**Organized by:**

Hancock Shaker Village and IA&A

**Publications:**

Comprehensive catalogue  
to accompany exhibition

**Contact:**

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Exhibitions Manager  
bethp@artsandartists.org

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### History of the Shakers:

The Shakers trace their beginnings to Manchester, England, in 1747. They called themselves The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing. They soon became known as Shakers because of the trembling, whirling, and shaking that affected them during their spiritually ecstatic worship services. As Millennialists, they believed that Christ's second coming was realized in their leader, Ann Lee, whom they called Mother Ann. Misunderstood and persecuted in their native England, the Shakers nonetheless gathered a small group of enthusiastic followers to their new Christian lifestyle and beliefs.

In 1774, Mother Ann Lee made the monumental decision to lead eight Shaker converts on a journey to America, seeking the freedom to live, work, and worship according to their main religious tenets: celibacy, communal life, and confession of sin. The Shakers also believed in racial and gender equality, simplicity, and pacifism. They dedicated their lives to creating a working Heaven on Earth amidst the boundless opportunities presented by settlement of the New World.



Towel (detail) used by the Shaker Ministry  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village



Herbal Preparation Labels  
Collection of Miriam R. and M. Stephen Miller



Round Boxes or Dry Measures  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village



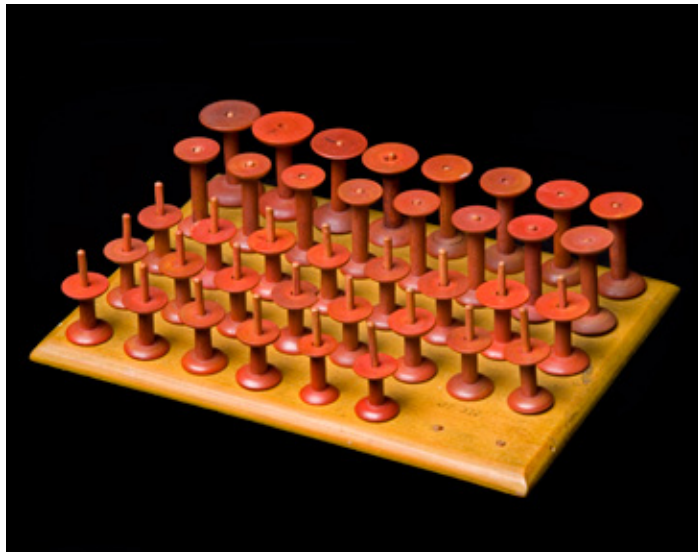
Oval Boxes  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village



Seed Riddles  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village

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Spool Rack  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village



Straw Bonnet and Straw Tape  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village



Cobbler's Tools  
Andrews Collection, Hancock Shaker Village

The Shaker population reached its peak in the mid-19th century, with an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 Shakers. Today, the Shaker community remains active at Sabbathday Lake in Maine.

The Shakers are one of the most intriguing social and religious movements in American history. They are also one of the longest lived, and are considered by many to be the most successful of the hundreds of communal groups and utopian societies that have flourished in this country since before the Revolutionary War.

As the Shakers grew in influence and in numbers in the 19th century, they challenged the existing social and religious structure and economic order of the new nation. Eventually developing an alternative lifestyle based on their religious beliefs, the Shakers have made important contributions to American culture including art, science, architecture, craftsmanship, business, music, education, government, medicine, agriculture, and commerce.