

TOURS

On Thursday, NEWS is offering you a choice of 3 different tours. Tour times vary; please check your specific tour for details. Air-conditioned buses will meet and return you to Smith College. Pick up and drop off instructions will be sent with your seminar confirmation. Please note the lunch options for each tour.

Tour 1: Harrisville Designs Mill and Village Tour

Thursday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Harrisville Designs was started in 1971 as an effort to preserve and help re-establish the economic vitality of the historic 18th century textile village of Harrisville, New Hampshire. Woolen yarn has been spun using water power in the brick mill town of Harrisville since 1794. This small village is nestled in the Monadnock Highlands of southwestern New Hampshire and is the only industrial community of the early 19th Century that still survives in America in its original form. In 1977, the Department of Interior designated Harrisville a National Historic Landmark. The program will include a tour and lecture as well as time for shopping and sightseeing. The bus will leave Smith College at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday and arrive in Harrisville at 11:30 a.m. Participants will take a tour of the mill until 12:30 with a break for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30. Lunch will be available at the Harrisville General Store with orders taken ahead of time and participants will purchase their own lunch. From 1:30 – 2:30 John Colony, owner of

Harrisville Designs, will give a talk on the development of the mills and the weaving industry in Harrisville. From 2:30 – 3:30 participants will be able to walk around the village and visit the Harrisville Knitting and Weaving Center. The bus will depart at 3:30 arriving back at Smith College around 5:00 p.m. Cost of tour is \$40 per person.

Tour 2: Shaker Textiles at Hancock Shaker Village

Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

This beautifully restored village, set amongst acres of farm, woodland and pasture, is home to the premier collection of Shaker buildings and artifacts. Graceful Shaker furniture, craft and household items are exhibited in 20 historic buildings, each an architectural gem. The Round Stone Barn, most famous of all Shaker buildings, is a testament to Shaker efficiency, innovation and design. Come spend the day touring the village and learning about the textiles produced by the Shakers. The tour will be led by Mary Elva Congleton Erf, a descendant of the Shakers, who has written several weaving publications including her most recent book entitled ***“Shaker Towels for the 21st Century”***. Ms. Congleton Erf has a life-long interest in reproducing and teaching Shaker techniques. The tour will leave Smith College at 9:00 a.m. and will arrive at the village in the Berkshires around 10:30. The tour will begin with an examination of many Shaker textiles in the collection. At 1:00 p.m. the group will take an hour break for lunch. Lunch will be available at the museum café and participants will purchase their own lunch.

Following lunch, the group will have time to explore the bucolic buildings and grounds with its beautiful gardens of herb and medicinal plants. The bus will leave the village at 3:45 and will arrive back at Smith College at 5:00 p.m. Cost of tour is \$55 per person.

Tour 3: Shelburne Falls and Vävstuga Swedish Weaving and Folk Arts - Visit and Demonstration

Thursday 10:30 am to 4:15 pm

For those of you, who would like a shorter tour, spend the day in Shelburne Falls, a scenic and historic village located on the historic Mohawk Trail in the Berkshire foothills. Shelburne Falls is rich with natural beauty and talented artisans, not to mention the world-famous Bridge of Flowers and The Glacial Potholes. Visit Vävstuga Swedish Weaving and Folk Arts and see a demonstration given by weaver Becky Ashenden on the use of a warping trapeze. The bus will leave Smith College at 10:30 am and arrive in Shelburne Falls at 11:15 am. Participants will split into two groups with half of the group having time to explore the village and the other half visiting Vävstuga for a demonstration with Becky. Becky will show the use of a warping trapeze which can help you wind a warp tightly onto your back beam all by yourself! Using this method, you have both hands free to work with the warp and with the loom. The trapeze takes the place of holding onto your warp under tension by hand. During the demo Becky will illustrate pre-sleying a reed

to spread the warp in preparation for beaming, as well as the beaming itself, using warp sticks. At noon participants will convene at Vävstuga for lunch provided as part of the tour. After lunch, the second group will see the demonstration and first group will be able to tour the village. The bus will depart around 3:30 pm and arrive at Smith College for 4:15 p.m. Cost of tour per person is \$40 per person.

