

# Hadley's 'precious' items focus of Deerfield exhibit

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By CORI URBAN

DEERFIELD - To help celebrate the Town of Hadley's 350th anniversary, Historic Deerfield will showcase "precious objects" from the town in the Hadley Sampler: An Anniversary Celebration.

Beginning Aug. 22 the sampler will be open to the public at the Flynt Center of Early New England Life.

"Part of our mission at Historic Deerfield is to interpret and educate people about the history of the Connecticut River Valley," said Claire C. Carlson, education program coordinator at Historic Deerfield and co-chair of the Hadley Historical Commission.

Hadley and other towns in the river valley were interconnected in colonial times, she said, so it is appropriate for Historic Deerfield to display the Hadley objects.

Among the Hadley objects that will be on display are an early 19th century cotton Empire-style dress owned by Lucy Warner; a Chinese porcelain punch bowl owned by Charles Phelps Jr. and Elizabeth Porter Phelps of Forty Acres; a watercolor family register made by Ebenezer W. Kellogg in 1826; and a tall case clock with the works made by silversmith and clockmaker Elijah Yeomans.

"Hadley families like the Porters, Phelpses and Kelloggs pursued a genteel lifestyle with the furnishings that supported it," said Amanda E. Lange, curatorial department chair and curator of historic interiors at Historic Deerfield. "This is a great opportunity to give a glimpse into the history of the town of Hadley and the talents and stories of those who have lived there."

She said the "precious objects" are items that have survived because they had "keep-me value over the years."

About 15 Hadley objects will be on display, and Lange thought this would be the first time all the objects associated with a specific town are displayed together. Usually the items are grouped with objects from other towns in historic houses at the museum.

"We don't have many opportunities to gather a town's objects together to examine what people in that town were like," Lange said.

The sampler is a way to "get the items out onto view," Carlson said.

They will be on display until Jan. 31.

"Hadley is doing a huge celebration for the 350th, and we wanted to be part of that," Lange said.

The Hadley Sampler: An Anniversary Celebration is included with general admission to Historic Deerfield. For more information, call (413) 775-7214 or visit [www.historic-deerfield.org](http://www.historic-deerfield.org)