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**American Family Treasures:
Decorative Arts from the D.J. and Alice Shumway Nadeau Collection
at the National Heritage Museum
November 19, 2005-April 23, 2006**

"American Family Treasures: Decorative Arts from the D.J. and Alice Shumway Nadeau Collection" transports the visitor to the first centuries of our nation's history. More than 70 objects will be on view, including exquisitely crafted furniture, metal work, glass, and more—all made in the towns and villages of New England. The exhibition also marks the first time a significant portion of the Nadeau collection will be presented to the public. "American Family Treasures" will be on view at the Museum in Lexington, November 19, 2005-April 23, 2006.

The National Heritage Museum is fortunate to be the promised recipient of this wonderful collection, which will be given in memory of D.J. and Alice Shumway Nadeau.

The Nadeau collection was not designed for show. The furniture bears the scuffs and marks of common usage, and is untouched by a restorer's hand. Just like its makers and original owners, later owners also thought of this furniture as functional tools for everyday living, not as icons of art. This is not to say they did not appreciate its aesthetic appeal, but the furniture was used by adults and children and subjected to the stresses and strains of everyday life. Not only do the objects fit well in the Nadeau home, but each piece has its own family associations and stories. On view will be 17th- and 18th-century tables, chairs, chests, a metal chandelier, as well as looking glasses and lighting devices, all offering a glimpse of times past. A traditional 19th-century copper weathervane, needlework, and objects produced by New England glass companies will also be presented.

The opening of the exhibition coincides with the publication of *American Family Treasures: Decorative Arts from the D. J. and Alice Shumway Nadeau Collection* by Ian Quimby. The book, priced at \$60.00 (\$54.00 for NHM members), features over 160 catalog entries illustrated in color and black and white as well as an essay by the author. *American Family Treasures: Decorative Arts from the D. J. and Alice Shumway Nadeau Collection* is available in the museum's Heritage Shop, (781) 457-4108, or on the museum's website, www.nationalheritagemuseum.org.

The National Heritage Museum is dedicated to presenting exhibitions on a wide variety of topics in American history and popular culture. The Museum is supported by the Scottish Rite Freemasons in

the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States. The Museum is located at 33 Marrett Road in Lexington, at the corner of Route 2A and Massachusetts Avenue. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 am–5 pm, and Sunday, noon–5 pm. Admission and parking are free. Heritage Shop and Courtyard Café on site. For further information contact the Museum at (781) 861-6559. For more information, visit our web site at www.nationalheritagemuseum.org.