The United Society of Believers in Christ’s Second Appearing, or Shakers as they were more commonly known, sought to create utopia. They practiced celibacy, believed in racial and sexual equality and were challenged to make the most of their time and talents.

MISSION
The mission of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, a non-profit corporation, is to preserve and maintain the site of the Shaker community which once existed here; to protect its buildings, its countryside and the records and articles pertaining to its builders; to make these buildings and grounds available for the broader uses of culture, education and recreation benefiting the citizens of Kentucky and others who visit the Commonwealth.

VISION
Here, history and hospitality will come together to offer experiences our guests will want to enjoy again and again. Our authentic identity will create genuine feelings of belonging through meaningful connections to history, a refreshing closeness to nature, and simple moments of peace. We will make memories as lasting as the Shaker story itself.

HISTORY OF A UNIQUE PEOPLE
The Shakers would surely find it hard to believe that thousands of people a year travel long distances to spend time in their peaceful village; however, they would surely agree the simplicity to which they ascribed is a welcome change from the hectic pace of today’s world.

Within the village, handsome limestone, brick and clapboard buildings stand to either side of a tree-lined road. Once dwellings and workshops, the structures are as sound as when they were built more than 200 years ago. Their design speaks of the simplicity and integrity of Shaker builders; people who believed that workmanship should reflect spiritual life.

In 1805, Shaker missionaries journeyed to central Kentucky and within a few years, significant numbers of people from the area had accepted their beliefs. They established a permanent community on a plateau just beyond the Kentucky River and named it Pleasant Hill. As one of America’s most industrious, inventive and prosperous subcultures, the Shakers are credited with inventing the flat broom, wooden clothespin, washing machine and circular saw. Their industries included the production of brooms, garden seeds, herbs for aromatic and medicinal use and preserves. The “Shaker brand” was known far and wide as a hallmark of excellence.
In the 1830s, Pleasant Hill was a thriving community of 500 residents with holdings of more than 4,000 acres; however, changing social attitudes and the advent of the industrial revolution took a toll on the celibate community. By 1923, the last Shaker had died and Pleasant Hill ceased to exist.

It was nearly 40 years before a successful restoration effort began. A preservation group was formed, and since that time, 34 buildings have been carefully restored and 3,000 acres of Shaker farmland preserved.

**THE SHAKERS TODAY**

The Shaker architecture and craftsmanship alone provide a reason to explore and enjoy Pleasant Hill. The limestone 40-room Centre Family Dwelling (1834), the white frame Meeting House (1820), the brick Trustees’ Office (1839) and the brick East and West Family Dwellings (1817, 1821) display an unadorned beauty and respect for practicality. Their lines are uncluttered and each structure is unbelievably solid. Massive brick chimneys are prominent and windows are plentiful and symmetrically arranged.

Visitors may stand in the broad hallway of the Centre Family Dwelling and imagine the quiet entry of 100 brethren and sisters after a day in the fields. The dual outside doors separated dormitory rooms and two sets of stairs ascending three floors are reminders of Shaker celibacy.

In the Meeting House, an interpreter sings selections of Shaker music several times each day. The Shakers believed the voice to be the most perfect musical instrument and composed many songs telling of dedication to work and worship. The melodies still ring as pure as the simplicity of their everyday life.

Collections of Shaker furniture and artifacts are on display in six of eleven exhibition buildings and costumed interpreters give demonstrations of village trades and life in the 1850s. Tours of the village are self-guided and an admission fee is charged. Children under six years of age are admitted free when accompanied by a touring adult.

Overnight accommodations are offered in 15 restored buildings where Shakers once worked and lived. Each room is furnished with Shaker-inspired reproduction furniture and hand-woven rugs. Modern-day conveniences for guests include a telephone, private bath and television.

The Trustees’ Office dining room prepares southern-style food in the Shaker tradition, with breakfast, lunch and dinner served daily.

For more information and reservations, contact Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, [www.ShakerVillageKy.org](http://www.ShakerVillageKy.org), 800-734-5611 or 859-734-5411. Visit the [website](http://www.ShakerVillageKy.org) for information about dining and activities and events options that take place throughout the year. Address: Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, 3501 Lexington Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.