

From the Editor –

Dear ACSQ subscribers,

Happy New Year! Welcome to volume twelve of our unending effort to bring you the latest and most interesting research into communal societies!

This issue features an article on Oneida Community architecture by Kevin Coffee, the former director of the Oneida Community Mansion House (OCMH). Coffee's article analyzes the genesis of the standing structures with reference to available documentary evidence, including plans and elevations that were found among the corporate records of Oneida Limited and transferred in 2012 to the archives of OCMH. In particular, Coffee examines the influence of architect Lewis Walker Leeds on later Oneida Community structures.

The second item in this issue is the previously unpublished autobiography of Shaker Proctor Sampson. Sampson's narrative sheds much light on the religious ferment in southern Maine during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. After pursuing a life at sea, he associated with the Quakers, Methodists, and Freewill Baptists. He finally converted to Shakerism, corresponding with Shaker theologian Richard McNemar in the process. It is a fascinating read, and we are pleased to present it in printed form for the first time.

Finally, Special Collections Coordinator Mark Tillson presents us with a fascinating bit of detective work he undertook on a batch of Spiritualist books recently acquired from the venerable firm of DeWolfe and Wood. Mark noticed some very interesting marginal commentary in a copy of Andrew Jackson Davis's *Beyond the Valley*; upon digging deeper he made a startling discovery as to the provenance of this, as well as other volumes among those acquired. He has reconstructed the dissolution of Davis's relationship with one of his closest supporters, Cyrus Oliver Poole. Hats off to Mark for uncovering the details behind this story!

The Couper Press would also like to announce the publication of Thomas Sakmyster's latest book, *The Last Shaker Apostate: Augustus Wager and Union Village, Ohio*. Dr. Sakmyster has made some important contributions to Shaker studies in recent years. His discovery of Wager's writings, and his reconstruction of Wager's life, both among the Shakers and beyond, makes for a fascinating read. The book is available on amazon.com, and at couperpress.org for \$20.

Best wishes to all for 2018!

— Christian Goodwillie