

From the Editor –

This double issue of *ACSQ* touches on the Shakers, the Community of True Inspiration (Amana), and Ephrata.

Aaron Genton discusses the “fracas” that took place on January 7, 1871, at Pleasant Hill, Ky., during which William Pennebaker cut fellow Shaker Henry Spencer’s neck, inflicting a “severe & dangerous wound.” Pennebaker became the physician for Pleasant Hill and was an active contributor to professional medical journals. Randall Ericson, with the help of Aaron Genton, compiled a bibliography of articles on different medical topics authored by Pennebaker and his colleague Frank Tripp. Genton is collections manager at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. He earned a B.A. from Western Kentucky University, and an M.A. in history from the University of Cincinnati.

Philip E. Webber reviews Peter Hoehnle’s three-volume compilation, *The Inspirationists, 1714-1932*, with particular emphasis on identifying future avenues of research into the Community of True Inspiration. Webber is professor emeritus of German and linguistics at Central College in Pella, Iowa. A primary focus of his research has been patterns of language use and ethnicity in Iowa’s ethnic communities. He has been involved in documenting communal societies in the American Midwest since the late 1970s. His books include *Pella Dutch: Portrait of a Language in an Iowa Community*, *Kolonie-Deutsch: Life and Language in Amana*, and *Zeal in the Civil War*.

Jeff Bach and Nick Siegert delve into the history of the Weaver’s House at Ephrata. By examining the construction of the house and clues as to how the structure was modified, they posit that it might well have been used to house the celibate sisters of Ephrata. Bach is the director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College. He earned his Ph.D. in religion from Duke University. He has studied the Ephrata Cloister extensively as well as other topics in Brethren history. Siegert received his B.S. in education from West Chester University in 1995, and has worked as a guide supervisor at Ephrata Cloister since 2008. His research interests include Anabaptist and Pietist studies, Radical Pietism, communal societies, esotericism, and the history of Christianity.

The final contribution in this issue is by Christian Goodwillie who documents the contact between the founding fathers of our country and the Shakers. Goodwillie is director and curator of special collections and archives at Hamilton College Library, and associate editor of *ACSQ* and the Richard W. Couper Press.