

From the Editor –

Dear *ACSQ* subscribers,

Happy New Year! We're very pleased to kick off our thirteenth volume with two excellent articles. Each was first presented at the 2017 Communal Studies Association conference at Zoar, Ohio.

First, we have a co-authored article by Cori L. Flatt and Peter Hoehnle. Cori is a graduate of Northern Kentucky University's Public History master's program. She has been studying communal societies for more than ten years, and at one time was an intern at Hancock Shaker Village. Her research on the short-lived Utopia, Ohio, community brings together some interesting new information on the topic. Peter Hoehnle was apprised of this paper and agreed to add his own considerable expertise not only on Utopia, but on the community that preceded it: the Clermont Phalanx. Cori and Peter have collaborated on an article that brings together more information about these relatively obscure communities than has ever before appeared in one place.

Second, we are proud to publish the work of German scholar Eberhard Fritz. Eberhard's research on the Separatists at Rottenacker, Germany, was presented in a plenary session at Zoar. He has uncovered much new information about the persecution of the Separatists prior to their emigration to the United States. Additionally, he has discovered the only known Separatist "star" badge remaining in Germany, which is illustrated on the cover of this issue. Along with his article he has translated an important source document that details the questioning of the Separatists regarding their beliefs by German authorities.

We close this issue with a previously untranslated and remarkable account of a visit to the Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, Shaker community by a German woman, Clara von Gerstner, ca. 1840. The account was brought to our attention by Aaron Genton, collections manager at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. We wish to sincerely thank Hamilton College's Professor Chris Burwick, who undertook the translation of the source for this publication.

Best wishes to all for 2019!

— Christian Goodwillie