

From the Editor –

In this issue of *ACSQ* we are pleased to present the articles by independent scholars Marilyn Cassidy and Dirk Langeveld.

Marilyn Carter Cassidy, a native of Provo, Utah, and life-long Latter-day Saint, has been interested in Family History from childhood. While living in Ohio with her husband and children in 1998, she started seriously collecting genealogical information. Almost immediately she realized her ancestors, the Darrows, through her maternal grandfather's line, were connected to the Shakers and that many family records were wrong. This led to a desire for further knowledge about the Shakers and about research and documentation.

Cassidy received her BA degree in Family History – Genealogy, last year from Brigham Young University at the age of seventy. She won the BYU History Department's "LeRoy R. Hafen Award in North American History, 2015," for her paper on George Darrow, her fifth-great grandfather. She is in the process of writing a book about Darrow's descendants.

Dirk Langeveld is a native of Lanesborough, Massachusetts. He was an intern at Hancock Shaker Village in the summers of 2004 and 2005. During the summer of 2005 he conducted in-depth archival and field research on the West Family of the Hancock Shaker community. His findings were published in a limited edition report at the time. Langeveld has slightly revised his report and we are pleased to present it here with a host of previously unpublished images of the West Family. Langeveld currently resides in New London, Connecticut, where he is the marketing editor for the *Day*, a local newspaper.

Finally, we offer a kaleidoscopic presentation of new acquisitions of material from the "I AM Activity." The Communal Societies Collection at Hamilton College continues to grow by leaps and bounds, and we are branching out further into Spiritualism, esotericism, and the occult, where these subjects complement the activities of intentional communities (which is strikingly often).

– Christian Goodwillie, Associate Editor