

From the Editor –

This issue of *ACSQ* is devoted to studies of the Tyringham Shaker society and all of the contributions are authored by Stephen J. Paterwic. As Paterwic points out in one of his essays, our understanding of Tyringham has suffered from a lack of research. He fills the gap with this collection of essays.

Earlier versions of these materials have been published or presented elsewhere. “The Tyringham Shakers” was presented at the Union Church in Tyringham, July 21, 2012. The talk was sponsored by the Bidwell House Museum. “Tyringham by the Numbers” and “Tyringham Fact Sheet” were handouts at that presentation.

“The Greatest Mystery of the Tyringham Shakers Unmasked” made its debut on Wednesday, July 14, 1999, at the Shaker Seminar in Pittsfield under the title, “The Mysteries of the Tyringham Shakers Unmasked: A New Examination of People, Facts, and Figures,” and was later presented at a talk at the Tyringham Town Hall on October 4, 2003. A revised version was published in *Historical Journal of Massachusetts* 31, no. 1 (Winter 2003). On October 9, 2008, Paterwic gave a presentation at the Lee Historical Society titled, “In the Shadow of Lee—The Tyringham Shakers,” which combined parts of “The Greatest Mystery” with additional information on Tyringham. This year he completely updated and rewrote his account for *ACSQ*.

“Necrology for the Shaker Society at Tyringham” was composed for the *Shaker Quarterly*. It was to appear in the 1997 issue, which was never published. Paterwic asked Brother Arnold of Sabbathday Lake if he could publish the article in *ACSQ* and Brother Arnold, without the slightest hesitation, said yes. Both Paterwic and I are thankful for this.

Paterwic has been a regular contributor to *ASCQ* and is well known in Shaker circles for his painstaking research into the Shakers. He is a graduate of Iona College and New York University, and he teaches mathematics. He has published *Historical Dictionary of the Shakers* (Scarecrow Press, 2008); contributed chapters to *Shaker Medicinal Herbs* (1998), *From Shaker Lands and Shaker Hands* (2007), and *Inspired Innovations: A Celebration of Shaker Ingenuity* (2010); and he has authored numerous articles and presentations on the Shakers.