

## From the Editor –

In 2021 the Richard W. Couper Press announced a joint initiative with the Enfield Shaker Museum in Enfield, New Hampshire, to publish the proceedings of each year's Spring Shaker Forum. This inaugural volume in the series contains four selected papers from the 2021 Forum. We are grateful for the collaboration of the Enfield Shaker Museum in presenting fresh scholarship from the Forum, which is the premier annual gathering for Shaker scholars.

The contributors to this volume are no strangers to the pages of *ACSQ*. First off, Kerry Hackett continues her work revealing the medicinal and therapeutic practices of the Shakers, while simultaneously shedding new light on prominent Shaker spiritual instrument Philemon Stewart. Hackett documents Shaker physicians' exploration of worldly medical innovation as they selectively introduced new healthcare practices at New Lebanon, New York.

I'm up second with a biographical essay on visionary Shaker Malcham Worley. Having recently completed *Richard McNemar: Frontier Heretic and Shaker Apostle* (forthcoming from Indiana University Press), I decided to keep going and complete a smaller look at the life of his longtime companion. The primary sources for the two were intertwined, so it was a natural by-product of the process. I hope my essay sheds further life on the inspired and complicated life of the first Shaker convert west of the Appalachians.

Independent scholar Ned Quist is third with more fascinating photographic discoveries unearthed from the myriad historical societies and libraries surrounding the former Shaker communities of Harvard and Shirley, Massachusetts. Quist's meticulous research brings fresh historic images of Shaker structures to the fore, along with investigative research into their creators.

Finally, Robert P. Emlen presents a chronological look at the changing ways in which Americans imagined the Shakers over the years, accompanied by some brand new evidence regarding the origins of the famous Shaker dance print.

We hope you enjoy these essays and we look forward to publishing the proceedings of the 2022 Spring Shaker Forum!

– Christian Goodwillie