

## From the Editor –

Dear *ACSQ* subscribers,

I am thrilled to announce that I am writing this editorial note from my ACTUAL DESK in my ACTUAL OFFICE (and not in my bedroom).

What better way to start 2021 than with an article about the Shakers' medicated vapour bath! Kerry Hackett is well known to many of us as a researcher of Shaker medical practices and a practicing herbalist. In this article she examines the Shakers' embrace of an innovative therapeutic practice.

Tom Sakmyster, a regular contributor to the *American Communal Societies Quarterly*, and the author of two books published by the Richard W. Couper Press, has once again graced our columns with a piece on mothers and daughters at the White Water, Ohio, Shaker community. Shakers were supposed to eschew natural, or “blood,” relations. Sakmyster's article explores the practical effects this had on individuals at White Water.

Finally, *ACSQ* newcomer Tom Fels has contributed a memoir of his time living communally in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Fels is an independent curator and writer specializing in American culture and art. He has worked as consultant to a number of museums, including the Canadian Centre for Architecture, the J. Paul Getty Museum, and the van Gogh Museum, in Amsterdam. In 1986 he was named a Chester Dale Fellow of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and in 1998 a Fletcher Jones Foundation Fellow of the Huntington Library. He currently directs his research and writing toward contemporary American history. He is the founder of the Famous Long Ago Archive at the University of Massachusetts, in Amherst, and the author of several books and articles on the period of the 1960s and its repercussions.

### **\*CORRECTIONS\***

Our diligent readership brought a couple of minor errors to my attention from vol. 14, nos. 3 & 4, the issue focusing on Shaker Revolutionary War Veterans. Douglas Winiarski informed me that the murky story of veteran Joseph Stout (page 307) was even murkier than I thought. Stout was married a second time to a woman named Rosina who died in the faith at Union Village. What remains to be discovered (and Winiarski is researching) is whether or not Stout was possibly a bigamist! We await Doug's findings! Also, Roben Campbell informed me that Samuel Blood and Hosea Winchester (page 146) were actually members of the Harvard, Massachusetts, Shaker community, and not Shirley, as I wrote. Thank you, gentle readers, for your attention and welcome corrections!

Best wishes for a safe and healthy spring!

— Christian Goodwillie