

## From the Editor –

Dear ACSQ subscribers,

We hope everyone had a great holiday season and is charging into the new year! Your faithful editorial crew have been hard at work to bring you another *incredible* issue of *American Communal Societies Quarterly*!

We're keepin' it close to home by kicking things off with an article by yours truly about the first generation of Shaker meetighouses in New England and New York. I presented this research at Historic Deerfield's Dublin Seminar in July 2018. My goal was to document the numerous structures erected by the Shakers for worship in the late eighteenth century, their forms, and their ultimate fates. I wish to thank David D. Newell, Stephen J. Paterwic, Jerry V. Grant, and Robert P. Emlen, for their valuable help and advice in this effort. I relied on Arthur McLendon's excellent dissertation for documentation of some structural details. My takeaway is that at least one major aspect of these structures remains to be investigated: how do the timber frames of gambrel roof houses in the Connecticut River Valley, particularly of the (often) multi-story roof levels, compare with the frames of Shaker meetinghouses, which McLendon proves are framed in the Dutch tradition? Father Joseph Meacham was raised in one such gambrel roof house in Enfield, Connecticut (long gone), but was it framed with Dutch braces and anchor bents, or by some other method? In any case, a task for another person, at another time.

Thomas Sakmyster has graced us with a newly discovered 1877 visitor's account to the White Water, Ohio, Shaker village. Sakmyster provides an introduction to the text, as well as a full translation, complete with critical apparatus. It is always our pleasure to present newly discovered primary sources and make them available to the wider community of Shaker researchers.

Finally, Brian Ziebart, a trustee of the Israelite House of David in Benton Harbor, Michigan, provides us with a detailed analysis of an incredibly rich photograph of the interior of the Israelites' print shop. The image, made prior to its destruction by fire in 1908, has yielded up many interesting details of material culture, work practices, and even site planning, from the initial period of Israelite growth in Benton Harbor.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Best Wishes for 2020!

— Christian Goodwillie