

From the Editor –

Dear *ACSQ* subscribers,

Although the snow is still piled outside as I type this, let's pretend that we're welcoming in the spring with this issue of *ACSQ*. The beautiful cover image would suggest as much, wouldn't it?

In this offering we're pleased to welcome back a regular contributor to the *ACSQ* and author for the Couper Press, Jane F. Crosthwaite. She has discovered a remarkable illustrated manuscript that highlights the relationship between noted Shakers Seth Youngs Wells and Calvin Green from the period of internal revival known to scholars as the "Era of Manifestations" (but called the "New Era" by the Shakers). Crosthwaite's analysis of the way in which these two intellectual giants among the Shakers embraced and shared the New Era's spiritual gifts provides further scholarly insight into this rich period of Shaker history; and the pictures are awful pretty too! We wish to thank Canterbury Shaker Village, and archivist Renee Fox, for providing us publication quality images of the manuscript, and granting permission to publish it in its entirety.

Secondly, we welcome a new author to the pages of *ACSQ*. Rebekah Brummett is the curator of community engagement at South Union Shaker Village. Her research into the life of African-American Shaker Justinian Cartwright breaks new ground in providing a detailed account of the life of a formerly enslaved person who became a Shaker in the antebellum South. Brummett's research is ongoing, and as Brother Justinian did, she is laying a pathway toward a much bigger story, piece by piece.

Finally, we offer a source document on an intriguing commune comprised of Americans in the heart of the early Soviet Union. The original manuscript letter was acquired by the special collections of Hamilton College. We thought it was intriguing enough to share with our readers.

Here's wishing everyone the best as the green and warmth return!

— Christian Goodwillie