

From the Editor –

Dear ACSQ subscribers,

Finally, we have the pleasure to present to you the new blockbuster *American Communal Societies Quarterly*. This special double issue is entitled “The Price of Blood”: Shaker Revolutionary War Veterans and the Military Pension. Personally speaking, an alternative title could be: “What I Did During the Pandemic While Sitting in My Bedroom, by Christian Goodwillie.”

The idea for this issue occurred to me while writing the section in my forthcoming biography of Richard McNemar about his work helping Union Village’s Revolutionary War veterans secure their military pensions. But, my interest has been piqued over many years by the excellent scholarly work of others. Back in 2004 (*I believe?*) I heard Leonard L. Brooks of the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Museum give a really interesting talk about Maine Shaker Revolutionary War veterans. The seed was planted then and there and I knew I wanted to do a deeper dive into the topic at some point. Subsequent work by Carol Medlicott and Sandra A. Soule brought out information on the wartime and pension experiences of Issachar Bates and John Patten, and Jane Crosthwaite explored the Shakers’ relationship to American patriotism. These works provided a solid foundation on which to build.

Armed with the powers of the internet, especially the website Fold3.com, my intrepid intern Avery Cook and I embarked on a mission of discovery. We sought to document every Shaker Revolutionary War veteran, and then, if possible, find their pension narrative and other relevant documents. Avery patiently transcribed these documents, which I subsequently proofread and annotated. Any errors remaining are strictly hers (*no, just kidding, they’re mine*). Avery also overlaid the movements of Issachar Bates, John Patten, and Joseph Stout, on a map of Revolutionary War campaigns. THANK YOU AVERY! Additionally, Leonard L. Brooks contributed his biographies of Maine Shaker veterans for this issue, and Carol Medlicott supplied her transcription of Bates’s pension narrative. Brother Arnold Hadd, and scholars Galen Beale, Rebekah Brummett, Roben Campbell, Jerry V. Grant, Tommy Hines, Emálee Krulish, Stephen J. Paterwic, Mark Tillson, and Douglas Winiarski also shared helpful information. Thanks to all of them! We hope that this issue will provide hours of fun reading and discovery. It also serves as an important reminder that freedom, and the “Rights of Conscience,” are not free.

Stay safe and healthy, and have a wonderful holiday season!

— Christian Goodwillie