

From the Editor –

Dear *ACSQ* subscribers,

I'm very pleased to present to you our latest *ACSQ*. After a brief digression into 1960s communes we've taken a *hard* turn back into Shakerville. We lead off with Ned Quist's examination of the Harvard Shakers' Mill on Bennett's Brook. Surprisingly little in-depth research has been conducted about mills operated by the Shakers, especially in light of their considerable economic impact on the communities. Quist's article, which is beautifully illustrated with historic and contemporary photographs, goes a long way toward filling that void.

Next up are Elizabeth DeWolfe's reflections on the ways in which research has changed in the twenty-five years since she published her award-winning book *Shaking the Faith: Women, Family, and Mary Marshall Dyer's Anti-Shaker Campaign, 1815-1867*. DeWolfe's article offers excellent insights, especially for those of us who teach students, born and bred in the digital age, how to conduct historical research.

Cynthia Barton's telling of the tragic case of mentally-ill Harvard, Massachusetts, Shaker Seth Babbit is a poignant reminder of the plight of marginalized people in early America. Barton submitted this article to *ACSQ* many years ago; we are glad to finally publish it.

Rounding out our slate of Shaker offerings is regular Couper Press author and *ACSQ* contributor Stephen J. Paterwic's research on the little-known South Family of the Hancock, Massachusetts, Shaker community. Hancock Shaker Village, Inc., will open that archaeological site to visitors for the first time on July 17, 2021. Paterwic was commissioned to write this report to assist in their interpretive efforts. We're thrilled to print it here for the future use of those who study the Shakers.

Finally, I couldn't resist reprinting Elwin E. Damkohler's scathing reminiscence of the Koreshan Unity, which I first learned of from reading Lyn Millner's excellent book *The Allure of Immortality*. The present excerpt is from an extremely rare pamphlet published in Fort Meyers in 1967. *ACSQ* is glad to make the text available to researchers.

Thanks to Jennifer Trainer Thompson and Emily Sylvia of Hancock Shaker Village, as well as Sarah Hayes of the Trustees of Reservations, for helping to supply images and information for this issue of *ACSQ*.

Best wishes for a fun and healthy summer!

— Christian Goodwillie