

## **From the Editor –**

Dear *ACSQ* subscribers,

From the snowy bowels of central New York I am happy to bring you this second issue of volume twelve, containing two wonderful articles. The first, by noted Shaker scholar and researcher Stephen J. Paterwic, tells the exciting story of the advent of Owenite communarians from Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to the Shaker community at New Lebanon, New York. Paterwic notes that this was one of the largest single sources for Shaker converts after the initial gathering of the eastern communities in the 1790s. Additionally, many of the Valley Forge converts remained faithful and valuable Believers. Two of them, George M. Wickersham and Jane D. Knight wrote down their reminiscences of life at Valley Forge, and how they were converted to Shakerism following the failure of the Owenite community.

The second article is by Nick Siegert, guide supervisor at the Ephrata Cloister in Ephrata, Pennsylvania. Siegert shares his exciting discovery regarding the inspiration for beautiful watercolor paintings executed by Ephrata Cloister member Jacob Martin, probably in the 1760s. Siegert was the first to realize that the works of mystical Pietist Johann Georg Gichtel were the source for Martin's paintings, which have been widely published. Siegert compares engraved originals from Gichtel with Martin's adaptations, yielding new insights into theological influences beyond Conrad Beissel at the Ephrata Cloister.

Here's hoping we all thaw out soon and have a beautiful spring!

— Christian Goodwillie