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From the Editor

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From the Editor –

In this issue Lauren A. Stiles describes the troubled decision making process used by the Center Family at Mount Lebanon in designing and constructing its new dwelling house. Stiles was for thirty years head of reference and humanities bibliographer for Memorial Library at SUNY Cortland. In retirement he is an independent scholar interested in Shaker architecture and agriculture in the last half of the nineteenth century.

John E. Norton's article "From Bishop Hill to Pleasant Hill: The Swedish Shaker Experience" is a revised version of the presentation he made at the Shaker Seminar last summer. John spent two years doing graduate work in Sweden and received his M.A. in American history from the University of Minnesota. He is a retired U.S. Army foreign area officer (northern Europe). He has served on the board of the Swedish-American Historical Society and the Bishop Hill Heritage Association. He is currently on the boards of the Scandinavian Seminar and the American Scandinavian Association at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.

Walter Brumm returns with another installment of "News and Notes" covering the Communal Studies Association annual meeting, a Shaker exhibit at the Shelburne Museum, a communiqué about the West Union Shakers, and a letter from Bren Dubay of Koinonia Farm.

Finally, I pass along this message from Lynn Rainard, president of the Communal Studies Association. "It is with the greatest of sorrow that I announce the death of Gina Walker, our beloved friend and long-time treasurer of the Communal Studies Association.... For nearly two decades, Gina served as our treasurer and in many ways was the virtual backbone of the association. Gina served as an archive librarian at the Rice Library of the University of Southern Indiana for thirty years, where she worked with the communal studies collection.... For the multitude of contributions she made to our organization, she was awarded the Donald E. Pitzer Distinguished Service Award in 2005.... She suffered from cancer over the past several years, yet she rarely allowed it to obstruct her duties to the association and dedication to the numerous friends in her own intentional community we call the CSA. Let us remember her beautiful smile, her sparkling eyes, her gregariousness, her sometimes mischievous ways, her sweet affection and the hard work with which she honored the Communal Studies Association."