

# American Communal Societies Quarterly

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## From the Editor

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## From the Editor –

It is my pleasure to welcome three new contributors to the *Quarterly* in this issue. Glendyne Wergland provides an introduction to a letter from Sally Dean to Phineas Fletcher, reprinted here from the Hamilton College Library collection. Wergland “met” the Shakers through volunteer work at Hancock Shaker Village. Returning to school at age forty, she pursued her interest in Shakerism at Mount Holyoke College, where she graduated with honors before going on to University of Massachusetts Amherst for her PhD. Wergland’s book, *One Shaker Life: Isaac Newton Youngs, 1793-1865*, won the Communal Studies Association’s Outstanding Publication Award in 2006. Her *Visiting the Shakers: Watervliet, New Lebanon, Hancock, and Tyringham, 1778-1849* will be published later this year by the Richard W. Couper Press. Wergland’s work-in-progress, on Shaker sisters, examines the difficulties and rewards of nineteenth-century communal life.

Roger L. Hall writes about a Shaker leaf song. Hall has spent thirty years researching music of the Shakers and other communal groups. He is the author or compiler of eight books, and has been the singer, consultant, or editor for eight CDs of Shaker music. He edited numerous Shaker spirituals, including fifty-six published in *The Shaker Messenger* between 1981 and 1996. Hall is currently moderator of a informational website that includes a section on Shaker music and its history ([www.americanmusicpreservation.com/shakermusic.htm](http://www.americanmusicpreservation.com/shakermusic.htm)).

Ralph Stenstrom discusses the printing date of *Church of Christ unto a People in Kentucky*, the letter the Shaker missionaries took with them on their journey to Kentucky and Ohio in 1805. Stenstrom, who holds a PhD from the University of Illinois, was Librarian at Hamilton College from 1976 until his retirement in 2000. He initiated the Communal Societies Collection at Hamilton, and laid the foundation for its growth into one of the premier communal societies collections in the country.

Finally, I call your attention to the notice (p. 137-38) that Hamilton College Library has acquired the rights to, and archives of, *The Shaker Messenger*. I am grateful for Karl and Alana Parkinson for their generosity.