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From the Editor

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From the Editor –

In this issue we feature two articles about the Shakers and their relations with two other communal groups — the Oneida Community and Koreshan Unity.

Anthony Wonderley explores the interaction between the Oneida Community and the Watervliet Shakers which grew out of their business dealings with each other. Negotiations about labor-saving devices inevitably led to discussion of their differing views on sex, and it was on this issue that their relationship foundered. Wonderley is currently curator at the Oneida Community Mansion House. From 1994 to 2005 he was Nation historian for the Oneida Indian Nation. He holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from Cornell and has published articles on Iroquois archaeology, folklore, and history in American Antiquity, Bulletin of the New York Archaeological Association, New York History, Northeastern Anthropology, and Ontario Archaeology. He has also authored two books, both published by Syracuse University Press: Oneida Iroquois Folklore, Myth, and History (2005), and At the Font of the Marvelous: Exploring Oral Narrative and Mythic Imagery of the Iroquois and Their Neighbors (2009).

Christian Goodwillie gives us an account of the interactions between Cyrus Teed of Koreshan Unity and the North Family at Mt. Lebanon. Drawing from the Koreshan newspaper Flaming Sword, the Shaker’s Manifesto, and journal accounts for the North Family, Goodwillie explores Teed’s attempt to merge the Koreshans and the Shakers under joint leadership. Goodwillie’s account traces the story from the initial enthusiastic reception of Teed and his ideas by members of the North Family through their growing disillusionment and their final parting of the ways. Goodwillie recently assumed the duties of curator of special collections and archives at Hamilton College Library after serving for nine years as curator of collections at Hancock Shaker Village. He recently co-edited with Jane Crosthwaite Millennial Praises: A Shaker Hymnal (2009) and co-authored with Mario De Pillis Gather Up the Fragments: The Andrews Shaker Collection (2008).