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From the Editor

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From the Editor –

In the lead article of this issue, Carol Medlicott presents an analysis of the establishment and closure of the West Union Shaker community, focusing on how geography played a critical role in its history. One intriguing observation by Medlicott is how West Union's proximity to Vincennes, the capital of the Indiana Territory, brought the Shakers into contact with the governor of the territory on a number of issues. Medlicott is assistant professor of geography at Northern Kentucky University.

Elizabeth and Scott De Wolfe made a remarkable discovery while vacationing in Key West, Florida, which they share with us. They found a photocopy of a previously unknown manuscript by William Adece Whitehead which includes a description of a visit to New Lebanon in 1830. The location of the original manuscript is unknown. Beth De Wolfe is professor of history at the University of New England. She has authored two books: *Shaking the Faith: Women, Family, and Mary Marshall Dyer's Anti-Shaker Campaign, 1815-1867* (Palgrave, 2002) and *The Murder of Mary Bean and Other Stories* (Kent State University Press, 2007). Scott De Wolfe is co-owner of De Wolfe and Wood Rare Books in Alfred, Maine.

Christian Goodwillie provides an introduction to an 1809 letter from Richard McNemar to Laurence Roelosson. Roelosson was active in the Kentucky Revival but took a dim view of the Shakers. McNemar's letter is a response to Roelosson's anti-Shaker views. Goodwillie is curator of special collections and archives at Hamilton College. He has co-authored a number of books, most recently with Jane Crosthwaite, *Millennial Praises: A Shaker Hymnal* (Univeristy of Massachusetts Press, 2009), and with Mario DePillis, *Gather Up the Fragments: The Andrews Shaker Collection* (Yale University Press, 2008).

I am pleased to announce the newest publication by the Richard W. Couper Press, Sandra A. Soule's *Robert White Jr.: "Spreading the Light of the Gospel."* There is more information about this publication including a review by Stephen Paterwic in this issue of the *Quarterly*. Note the handy order form on the back cover that you can photocopy and send in to obtain your copy of this work.