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Hamilton College Library "Home Notes"

Visiting the Shakers, 1850-1899 Goes to the Printer

The Richard W. Couper Press is pleased to announce that *Visiting the Shakers, 1849-1899: Waterliet, Hancock, Tyringham, New Lebanon* will be available by April 15. Edited by Glendyne Wergland, this is a companion to her earlier volume covering 1788-1849. Visitors to Shaker communities recorded impressions of Shaker life, material culture, and worship. These eighty-five original accounts provide a valuable window into Shaker life. Wergland's painstaking work in locating and transcribing these accounts has resulted in a volume which will have enduring value for historians of the Shakers and American culture in general.

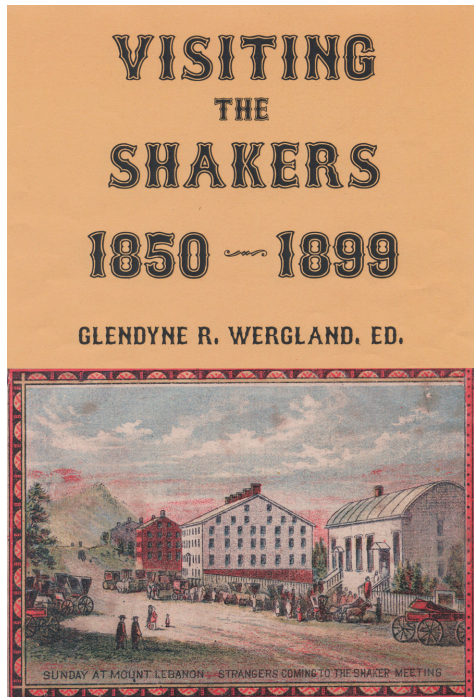
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Communal Societies Collection New Acquisitions

The Communal Societies Collection has recently acquired a large collection of materials relating to the Community of True Inspiration. The sect immigrated to the United States from Germany beginning in 1843. They were resident first at Ebenezer, New York, and ultimately settled at Amana, Iowa, beginning around 1855. Although they abandoned communal living in 1932, the religious practice of the Inspirationists remains vital today. The materials acquired by Hamilton College include books, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, and ephemera produced in Germany and the United States. They have been added to our already substantial holdings of Inspirationist books and pamphlets. Efforts to build this collection will be on going. Listed below are a few highlights of the recently acquired items.

1. *Davidisches Psalter Spiel*.... Budinggen, 1805.

This copy belonged to Heinrich Trautmann, and was marked and dated by him on the flyleaf in 1830.

2. *Kinder Stimme*.... Zum zweitenmal aufgeleift, Anno 1825.

The second edition of *Kinder Stimme*, published in Germany.

3. Noé, Wilhelm. "Map of Middle, Lower and Upper Ebenezer ... Fall 1844."

A manuscript map, pencil on paper, 31" x 12 1/2". This is the earliest dated map of the Ebenezer villages. Houses, barns, and improvements are all delineated on the map.

4. [Manuscript] [Moershel, Wilhelm, Sr., attr.] "Kurz ... Biographien der Autoren ... Psalter Spiel...." 190 p.

A manuscript copy of a collection of biographies of authors whose works appear in the *Psalter Spiel*. The work is sometimes attributed to Wilhelm Moershel, Sr. (1794-1862). Several handwritten copies of this collection exist. Although it was never published in German, an English translation by Dr. Henry J. Ruff, was privately printed.

5. [Manuscript] "Zweiter brief von den lbruder von Parkville geschreibern." (Second letter from the dear brethren written from Parkville [Kansas]).

This letter was written principally by Carl Mayer to the Inspirationists at Ebenezer, New York. It reports on the abortive attempt made by Mayer, Christian Metz, Carl Winzenried, and Ferdinand Weber to locate a settlement site in Kansas in 1854. The original letter was written on September 21, 1854. This handwritten copy was probably made to be read by elders in one of the other Ebenezer villages.

6. *Ensign, Bridgman & Fanning's Map of Iowa*, [1854]. 22" x 18".

One of a series of maps purchased at the time of the Inspirationists' first forays into Iowa in 1855 in search of a new home.

7. *Kleines Blumengartchen fur Gott liebende Seelen*. Eben-Ezer: [Wahre Inspirations-Gemeinde?], 1854. 128 p.

This miniature book is only 3 1/2" tall. According to Amana bibliographer Lanny Haldy, "This is the smallest and perhaps the most rare nineteenth century Inspirationist publication."

8. *Ebenezer Land for Sale*. Buffalo: Brunk, Held & Co's Steam Press, [ca. 1855]. 15 1/2" x 22".

A broadside in both German and English, advertising the sale of the Inspirationists' lands in Ebenezer.

9. *Map of the Village of Middle Ebenezer*. Buffalo, N.Y.: Lith. J. Sage & Sons, [ca. 1856]. 21" x 23".

A detailed map of the village prepared as the Inspirationists were relocating to Iowa. It shows the location of buildings and town lots.

10. Gruber, E. L., *Jesus Lieder fur Seine Glieder, sonderlich fur Siene Kleine und Reine...* Neu aufgelegt, Ebenezer bei Buffalo, N.Y., 1857. 695 p.

Collection of songs for children by Inspirationist co-founder Eberhard Ludwig Gruber.

11. Elders of the Community at Ebenezer, Erie Co., New York, *The Sunday Laws, The Apostacy, A Testimony of Truth*. Signed: "The Elders of the Community at Ebenezer New York September 1859." 2 p.

This memorial was probably written in English by Charles Mayer, but was also published in German. It expresses the Inspirationists' support of Sunday laws, which most Germans immigrants opposed.

12. Metz, Christian. *In the General Meeting after the Reading of the Eleventh Chapter in the Prophet Zecharia, the Word of the Lord Came to Brother Christian Metz and Inspired Him to Pronounce the Following Testimony*. [Ebenezer, N.Y.: s.n., 1861].

A broadside issued in English at Ebenezer giving Inspirationist leader Christian Metz's warning to the American public of the impending calamity of the Civil War.

13. *Price Current of Woolen Goods Manufactured by Amana Society*, ca. 1900. 20" x 10".

Amana woolen goods were sold throughout the country during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

14. Heinemann, George. *Affidavit A*. 1918.

An affidavit produced to accompany the petition of male members of the Amana Society asking for exemption from service in World War I.

15. *Liebe Geschwister*, 1931. 2 p.

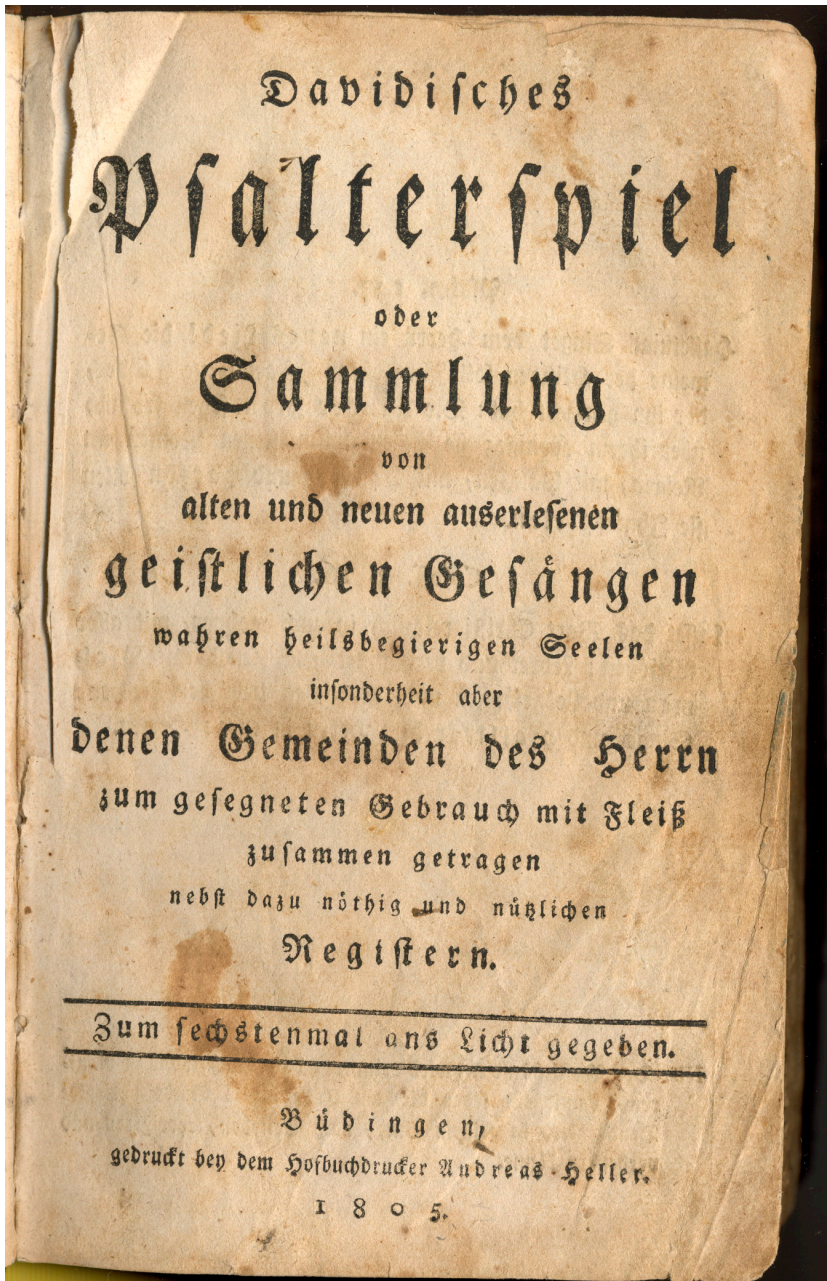
A letter that accompanied the June 1931 straw poll ballots distributed to members by the Committee of 47. This letter explained exactly what reorganization, and/or a return to a stricter communal lifestyle, would entail. It was drafted by Peter Stuck (1890-1979) and William Noe (1898-1978) of Main Amana.

16. *Fragenbogen*, 1931.

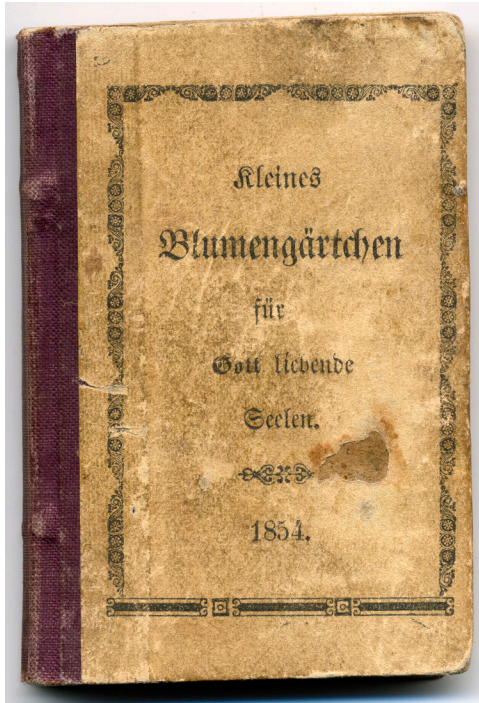
A questionnaire sent to Amana residents in June 1931 to gauge support for a possible reorganization of the Society.

17. *Amana Society Director Election Ballot*. 1933.

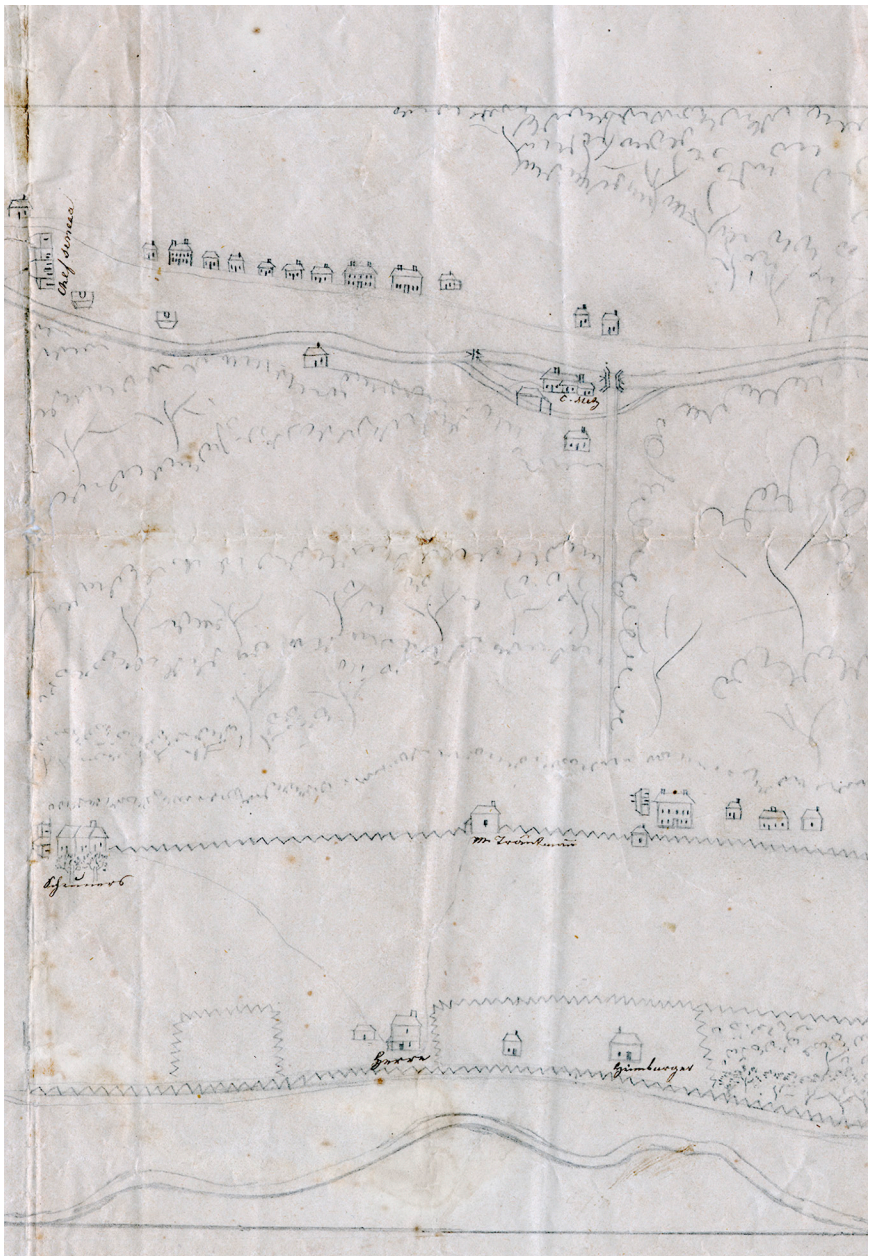
This is a sample ballot printed for the second election of Amana Society directors in 1933.



Title page of *Davidisches Psalter Spiel*.... Budingen, 1805. (no. 1)



Front cover of *Kleines Blumengärtchen für Gott liebende Seelen*, a miniature book only 3½" tall. (no. 7)



This detail from Wilhelm Noé's 1844 map (no. 3) shows Mittel (Middle) Ebenezer and Nieder (Lower) Ebenezer.



The Seneca Indians were the original inhabitants of the lands purchased by the Inspirationists. Some Senecas were still living there when this map was drawn in 1844.



Inspirationist *Werkzeug*, or “inspired prophet,” Christian Metz, lived in this house while the sect was at Ebenezer. The structure pre-dated the Inspirationists and is still standing today.

Price Current of WOOLEN & COTTON GOODS,
 —MANUFACTURED BY—

AMANA SOCIETY.

ALL WOOL FLANNELS.

Plain Flannel.		E	G	Retail	Twilled Flannel.		E	G	Retail
	No.					No.			
White 36 inch full	2				White	1-3			
White 36 do x	2				do	1-3			
do	1-2				do	1-4			
do	1-3				do L	1-3			
do	1-4				do F	1-3			
do x	1-2				do F	1-3			

PRICE CURRENT OF WOOLEN GOODS
 MANUFACTURED BY

AMANA SOCIETY

ALL WOOL FLANNELS

ALL WOOL BLANKETS

Plain Flannels		E	G	Retail	"M" White		E	G	Retail
	No.				Assorted Pink & Blue Borders				
White x 36 inch	2				4 lbs. per pair Size 66x80				
do x 32 inch	2				5 lbs. per pair Size 70x84				
do xxx	1-1				6 lbs. per pair Size 76x86				
do	1-3				7 lbs. per pair Size 76x90				
do	1-2				8 lbs. per pair Size 76x90				
do x	1-4								

PRICE CURRENT OF WOOLEN GOODS

MANUFACTURED BY

AMANA SOCIETY

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ALL WOOL BLANKETS

Plain Flannels		E	G	Retail	"M" White		E	G	Retail
	No.				Assorted Pink & Blue Borders				
White x 36 inch	2				4 lbs. per pair Size 66x80				
do x 32 inch	2				5 lbs. per pair Size 70x84				
do xxx	1-1				6 lbs. per pair Size 76x86				
do	1-3				7 lbs. per pair Size 76x90				
do	1-2								

Price Current ... Order forms for woollen goods sold by the Amana Society. (no. 13)