The Richard W. Couper Press is pleased to announce that *Visiting the Shakers, 1849-1899: Watervliet, 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 ongoing. Listed below are a few highlights of the recently acquired items.

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

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

A manuscript map, pencil on paper, 31” x 12 ½”. This is the earliest dated map of the Ebenezer villages. Houses, barns, and improvements are all delineated on the map.

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.

(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.

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.

This miniature book is only 3 ½” tall. According to Amana bibliographer Lanny Haldy, “This is the smallest and perhaps the most rare nineteenth century Inspirationist publication.”

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

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

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

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.

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

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.
Das Davidische Psalterspiel
oder
Sammlung
von
alten und neuen auserlesenen
geistlichen Gesangen
wahren heilsbegierigen Seelen
insondere aber
denen Gemeinden des Herrn
zum gesegneten Gebrauch mit Fleiß
zusammen getragen
nebst dazu nöthig und nützlichen
Registern.
Zum sechstenmal ans Licht gegeben.

Büdingen,
1805.

druckt bey dem Hofbuchdrucker Andreas Heller.
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.