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From the Editor

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From the Editor –

In this issue we have contributions from some familiar names (Stephen Paterwic and Elizabeth De Wolfe) and a new one (Elizabeth Gleason Bervy).

Paterwic, author of “The History of the Shaker Gathering Order,” traces the development of the idea of a Gathering Order, chronicles their beginnings and endings, and lists the families that served as Gathering Order for each Shaker community. He goes on to show how the history of Gathering Orders demonstrates the vitality and flexibility of Shaker governance. Paterwic’s article is based on his presentation at the Spring Forum at Enfield Shaker Museum, which was selected as the outstanding paper of the Forum.

Hamilton College Library holds a four-page manuscript, “The Mob Action at Enfield,” in which the Shakers describe the harrowing activities of May 1818 when Eunice Chapman and Mary Dyer led a mob which descended on the Enfield Shaker community in New Hampshire, with the goal of retrieving Chapman’s children. Elizabeth De Wolfe, who has written extensively on the struggles of women seeking to remove their children from the Shakers against the will of the children’s father and the Shakers, provides an illuminating introduction to this manuscript.

The final article is a posthumous publication by Elizabeth Gleason Bervy on the farming efforts of the Canterbury Shakers, with a special emphasis on the specific models of machinery they used. She identifies specific models of farm equipment used at Canterbury. Darryl Thompson played an important role in bringing this article to publication. Bervy’s daughter, Jill, refers to Darryl Thompson as one of her mother’s closest friends in the Shaker field and thanks him for his tireless efforts as a resource in the preparation of this article. Thompson has lectured and written widely about the Shakers, assisted in the editing of Shaker-related books, taught classes in Shaker history, and continues to lead tours at Canterbury Shaker Village. There is a brief biography of Elizabeth Bervy on page 107.

Finally I am pleased to announce two new publications by the Richard W. Couper Press — *A Bruised Idealist: David Lamson, Hopedale, and the Shakers*, by Peter Hoehnle, and *Independency of the Mind: Aquila Massie Bolton, Poetry, Shakerism, and Controversy*, by Sandra A. Soule. More information on these publications is found on pages 119-20.