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The Passing Hour: An Unrecorded Shaker Periodical

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While working with Library of Congress microfilm, Walter Brumm made an astonishing discovery: an unknown (at least to us) periodical from the Union Village, Ohio, Shaker community. The title of the periodical is *The Passing Hour*. Christian Goodwillie rediscovered it while trawling through the microfilm of the LC Shaker Collection. With further investigation we were able to determine that the Library of Congress holds two issues of *The Passing Hour*: vol. 1, no. 4 (May 1877) and vol. 1, no. 5 (June 1877). Each issue is two pages (one sheet printed on both sides). The first page of no. 4 is very faint. It appears that *Passing Hour* was intended to be published monthly. The contents are directed to members of the community, providing news and encouragement. “Readers of the Passing Hour: The object of this printed sheet is (1), to dispense with its manuscript form; thereby laying it more openly to all, that its character may be critically observed. (2) to furnish (gratuitously) to all, opportunities to improve intellectually. We hope its readers, will be also its contributors.” (no. 4, p. [1]). The entire organizational structure of Union Village is given in issue no. 4. We reproduce the masthead of issue no. 5 above and the organizational chart on the following page.

— Editors
OFFICIAL DIRECTORY
OF THE
Society At Union Village, Ohio

MINISTRY.
William Reynolds.  Naomi Legier.
Amos Parkhurst.  Adaline Wells.

TRUSTEESHIP.
Peter Boyd.  David Parkhurst.

Center Family.

           Oliver C. Hampton.  Ellen Ross.

Deaconship.  Mathew B. Carter.  Matilda A. Butler.
             Josiah Buxton.  Joanna Desmond.

Family Peddler.  Charles Olapp.

Society School Teacher.  O. C. Hampton.

Grand Sachem of the Progressive Institute.  O. C. Hampton.

South Family.

Eldership.  David Parkhurst.  Emily Robinson.
           Ruth Sibenthall.

             Eliza Thomas.

North Family.

           Jethro Boyd.

             Mary Vandervere.

West Family.

           Leopold Goeppe.  Hattie MacDow.