

Selective Annotated Bibliography of Colonial Communal Settlements

By D. F. Durnbaugh

P. C. Plockhoy and the Valley of the Swans

Harder, Leland and Marvin Harder. *Plockhoy from Zurik-zee: The Study of a Dutch Reformer in Puritan England and Colonial America*. Newton, KS: [Mennonite] Board of Education and Publication, 1952.

A largely accurate, carefully-documented study that includes original sources.

Horst, Irvin. "Pieter Cornelisz Plockhoy: An Apostle of the Collegiants." *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 23 (July 1949): 161-185.

Provides useful information on the Dutch background.

Leasa, K. Varden. "Setting the Record Straight on Peter Plockhoy: Delaware's First

Mennonite." *Mennonite Historical Bulletin* 63 (October 2002): 1-7.

In contrast to previous studies, shows that P. C. Plockhoy died in Delaware after his colony was raided and did not find his way to Germantown. Rather, it was his son who resettled in Pennsylvania.

Plantenga, Bart. "The Mystery of the Plockhoy Settlement in the Valley of Swans."

Mennonite Historical Bulletin 62 (April 2001): 4-13.

Further detail on the Plockhoy settlement and the Dutch background.

Jean de Labadie and Bohemia Manor

Greene, Ernest J. "The Labadists of Colonial Maryland, 1683-1722." *Communal Societies* 8 (1988): 104-21.

A well-documented overview of the Bohemia Manor community.

Irwin, Joyce. "Anna Maria van Schurman: From Feminism to Pietism." *Church History* 46 (March 1977): 48-62.

Considered the most-erudite woman in seventeenth-century Europe, van Schurman was a leader of the Labadists.

Saxby, Trevor J. *The Quest for the New Jerusalem: Jean de Labadie and the Labadists, 1610-1740*. Dordrecht: Martinus Nijhoff, 1987.

A thorough monograph on the background of Labadie and the formation of his colonies in The Netherlands, Germany, Surinam, and North America.

Wallmann, Johannes. "Labadismus und Pietismus." in *Pietismus und Reviel*, eds. J.

Van den Berg and J. P. Van Dooren, 141-168, Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1978.

Describes the connection between the Labadist movement and the larger Pietist movement.

Johannes Kelpius and the Society of the Woman in the Wilderness

Brooks, Edythe L. "A Re-Evaluation of the Significance of Johannes Kelpius and 'The Woman of the Wilderness,'" M.A. Thesis, University of South Florida, 1996.

A failed attempt to link the Kelpian movement with the Ephrata Society, claiming that the latter was almost completely dependent upon the former.

Fischer, Elizabeth W. "'Prophecies and Revelations': German Cabbalists in Early Pennsylvania." *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 109 (July 1985): 299-333.

Useful description of the orientation of the Kelpian movement in the context of the times for dissenting religious movements.

Martin, Willard M. "Johannes Kelpius and Johann Gottfried Seelig: Mystics and Hymnists on the Wissahickon [River]." Ph.D. dissertation, Pennsylvania State University, 1973.

A solid monograph on the two leaders of the mystical communal group near Germantown.

Versluis, Arthur. *Wisdom's Children: A Christian Esoteric Tradition*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1999, 69-111.

Places the Kelpian-led movement into a broader perspective of Radical Pietist and Böhmist ideology.

Conrad Beissel and the Ephrata Society

Alderfer, E. Gordon. *The Ephrata Commune: An Early American Counterculture*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1985.

A generally dependable overview of the beginning, flowering, and demise of the unique Ephrata Society.

Bach, Jeffrey A. *Voices of the Turtledoves: The Sacred World of Ephrata*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press/ Pennsylvania German Society, 2003.

Provides a basic understanding for the esoteric imagery, language, and symbolism of this fascinating society that flourished throughout much of Colonial America. It supersedes all previous interpretations of the Ephrata Society which was renowned for its cultural achievements in art and music.

Erb, Peter C., ed. *Johann Conrad Beissel and the Ephrata Community: Mystical and Historical Texts*. Lewiston, N.Y.: Edwin Mellen Press, 1985.

Contains an introduction to Ephrata and translations of some basic texts, but not totally accurate in detail and translation.

Klein, Walter C. *Johann Conrad Beissel, Mystic and Martinet, 1690-1768*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1941.

An unsympathetic and biased biography, the only one so far written, the work cannot be recommended as a satisfactory account of Beissel's life. There are two mistakes in the title

alone.

Sachse, Julius F. *The German Sectarians of Pennsylvania: A Critical and Legendary History of the Ephrata Cloister and the Dunkers*. (Philadelphia: author, 1899-1900.), two-volumes.

Long considered the standard work on Ephrata, it has been found by later scholarship to be undependable in documentation and interpretation. The author found and preserved many original sources and did much to call attention to the Ephrata story.

Wust, Klaus. *The Saint-Adventurers of the Virginia Frontier*. Edinburg, Va.: Shenandoah History Publications, 1977.

A well-documented account of the dramatic lives and deaths of the four Eckerlin brothers, sometime Ephrata leaders and frontier settlers.

Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians

Crews, C. Daniel and Richard W. Starbuck. *With Courage for the Future: The Story of the Moravian Church, Southern Province*. Winston-Salem: Moravian Church, 1995. Denominational history.

Faull, Katherine M., ed. *Moravian Women's Memoirs: Their Related Lives, 1750-1820*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1997.

Autobiographical writings of thirty women who lived in Moravian settlements in Colonial America; they provide keen insight into the thought and devotional world of the Moravian Brethren.

Gollin, Gillian L. *Moravians in Two Worlds: A Study of Changing Communities*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1967.

A prize-winning comparative study of Moravians in Germany and North America.

Hamilton, J. Taylor and Kenneth G. Hamilton. *History of the Moravian Church: The Renewed Unitas Fratrum, 1722-1957*. Bethlehem, Pa.: Moravian Church of America, 1967.

Remains the standard history of the Moravian Church.

Smaby, Beverly Prior. *The Transformation of Moravian Bethlehem: From Communal Mission to Family Economy*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1989.

This solid monograph, based on the sources, describes the shift from a completely communal life and economy to one of shared but more family-centered life.

Sensbach, Jon F. *A Separate Canaan: The Making of an Afro-Moravian World in North Carolina, 1763-1840*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

Displays both the original multi-cultural orientation of the Moravians and a developing racial sensitivity.

Vogt, Peter, ed. *Authentische Relation . . . / An Authentic Relation . . .*. Hildesheim/Zurich/New York: Georg Olms Verlag, 1998.

A bilingual edition, with very helpful annotation, of the protocols of the important Pennsylvania Synods of 1742 guided by the Moravian leader, Count Zinzendorf.

General Treatments and Reference Works

Dare, Philip N., ed. *American Communes to 1860: A Bibliography*. New York / London: Garland Publishing, 1990.

Useful compilation.

Durnbaugh, Donald F. "Work and Hope: The Spirituality of the Radical Pietist Communitarians." *Church History* 39 (March 1970): 72-90.

Demonstrates the underlying Radical Pietist orientation of many of the early religious communities.

Fogarty, Robert S., ed. *Dictionary of American Communal and Utopian History*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1980.

Although now somewhat dated, it provides significant information especially on communal leaders, but also on the groups themselves.

Pitzer, Donald E., ed. *America's Communal Utopias*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999.

The most comprehensive and authoritative study, with chapters written by leading scholars of communitarian movements.

Stockwell, Foster, ed. *Encyclopedia of American Communes, 1663-1963*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co., 1998.

Helpful brief descriptions of communal groups and leaders.

Sutton, Robert F. *Communal Utopias and the American Experience: Religious Communities. Volume 1*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2003.

Documented portrayals of the leading communal groups.

Trahair, Richard C. S., ed. *Utopias and Utopians: An Historical Dictionary*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1999.

A potentially useful compilation hampered by serious errors of fact, organization, and interpretation, rendering it untrustworthy.