


THE  
PEOPLE CALLED SHAKERS

A SEARCH FOR THE PERFECT SOCIETY



By EDWARD DEMING ANDREWS

NEW ENLARGED EDITION

DOVER PUBLICATIONS, INC.  
NEW YORK

For Thomas Merton,

With respect and affection -

Edward and Faith Anderson

November, 1963

Copyright © 1963, 1953 by Edward Deming Andrews.

All rights reserved under Pan American and International Copyright Conventions.

Published simultaneously in Canada by McClelland and Stewart Limited.

Published in the United Kingdom by Constable and Company Limited, 10 Orange Street, London, W.C.2.

This new Dover edition, first published in 1963, is an unabridged republication of the work first published by the Oxford University Press, Inc., in 1953, to which has been added an Appendix of Notes supplying background and bibliographical information for over three hundred text references and for all the illustrations in the book. This new material has been prepared by the author especially for this Dover edition.

*Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 63-17896*

Manufactured in the United States of America

Dover Publications, Inc.  
180 Varick Street  
New York 14, N.Y.

## *Table of Contents*

---

### Introduction, xi

- I     Ann Lee Leads the Way, 3
- II    Opening the Testimony in America, 14
- III   Mission into New England, 35
- IV    Early Shaker Communism, 54
- V     Expansion Westward, 70
- VI    Temporal Labor—Principles and Practice, 94
- VII   Spiritual Labor—Mode of Worship, 136
- VIII   ‘Mother Ann’s Work,’ 152
- IX    Internal Order, 177
- X     Relations with the World, 204
- XI    Decline of the Order, 224

### APPENDICES

The Millennial Laws, 243

Statistical View of Shaker Communities, 290

A Note on Sources, 293

Notes, 299

Index, 341

## *List of Illustrations*

---

- Banns of Marriage, Abraham Standerin and Ann Lees, 7  
Meeting-houses, New Lebanon. First Church in Background, 51  
Page from First Written Covenant, New Lebanon, 1795, 63  
Title Page of First Shaker Pamphlet, 65  
Title Page of First Edition of *The Testimony*, 96  
Trustees' Office and Store, New Lebanon. Built in 1827, 105  
Trustees' Office, Niskeyuna, 107  
Kitchen, Church Family, Niskeyuna, 111  
Sisters' Shop, 112  
A Mender of Clothing, 114  
Cutting Bread, 114  
Herb Shop, New Lebanon, 121  
Shakeresses Preparing Herb Extracts, 123  
Shaker Sisters Corking Bottles, Herb Industry, 124  
Church Family, Shirley Shakers, 128  
Interior of Meeting-house, New Lebanon, 129  
Entrances to Brethren's and Sisters' Rooms, 130  
Square Order Shuffle, 139  
Singing Meeting, 140  
The Gift of Love, Evening Meeting, 145  
Solemn March, The Final Procession, 146  
Ring Dance, Niskeyuna, 148  
The Whirling Gift, 154  
Mountain Meeting, 163  
Revival Song, Shaker Notation, 173



Brethren's Retiring Room, North Family, Niskeyuna, 182

Dining Room, North Family, Niskeyuna, 183

Girls' Clothes Room, Church Family, Niskeyuna, 186

Schoolroom, Niskeyuna Community, 190

Sisters' Everyday Costume, 200

Church Family, New Lebanon Shakers, 1856, 202

Shaker Evans at Home, 232

Title Page of Millennial Laws, 249