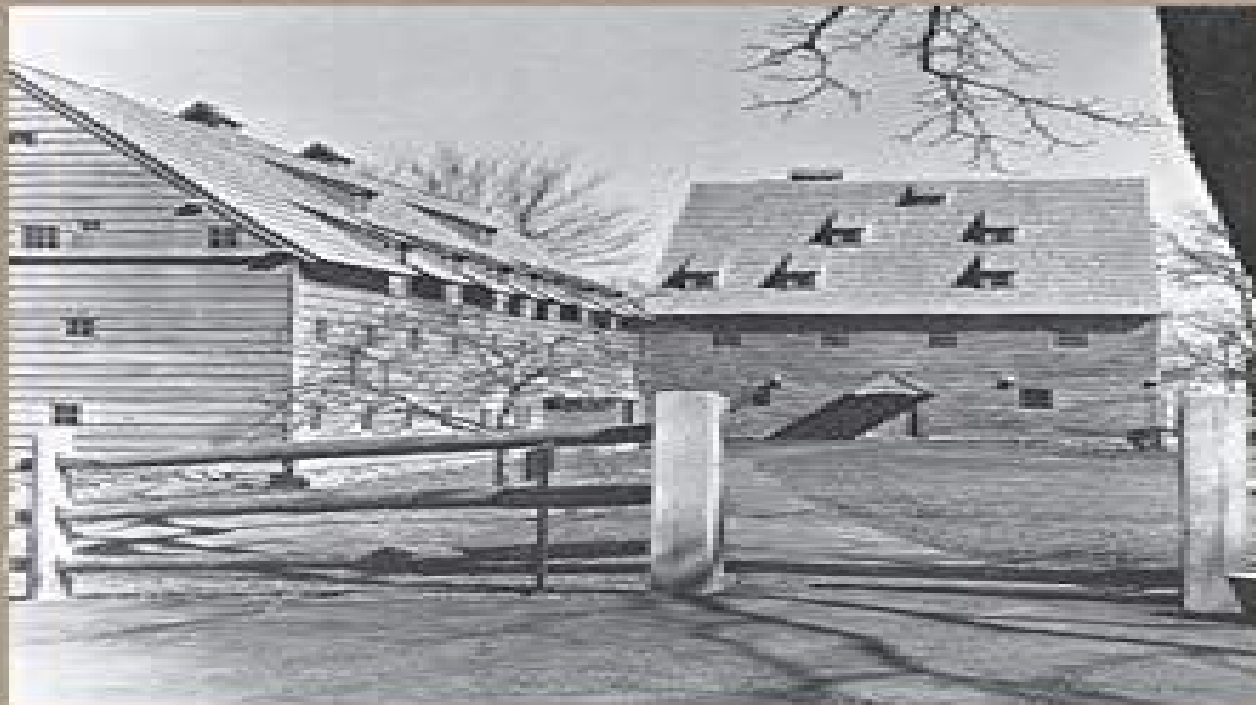


The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture

E. G. ALDERFER



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The Ephrata Commune E.G. Alderfer, 2011-10-24 E G Alderfer has chosen a dramatic story to tell the founding and subsequent history of Ephrata a mystical religious community that flourished in eastern Pennsylvania in the mid eighteenth century The history of the commune is inseparable from that of its leader Conrad Beissel a German Pietist who came to America in 1720 seeking spiritual peace and solitude When he settled in the virgin forest of Lancaster County his talents and charisma attracted other German settlers who shared his vision of a community built in the image of apostolic Christianity In its heyday from about 1735 to 1765 the community at Ephrata numbered some two hundred people the celibate members living in simple wooden buildings noted for the harmony and serenity of their architecture The cultural achievements of the group were exceptional They produced an extensive body of mystical literature and constructed the most complete printing establishment in the colonies at that time They were also adept at the art of Fraktur and many exquisitely decorated manuscripts survive Music was a particular interest of Beissel s and the choral music performed at Ephrata was well known and much admired Mr Alderfer who has written widely on colonial Pennsylvania shows the relationship of the Ephrata commune to other experiments at withdrawal from the world and in particular to the many strands of Old World mysticism and the German Pietist movement He also discusses American religious and communal movements of later times in the light of the Ephrata experience His is the first history of the community to provide extensive documentation including analysis of many surviving manuscripts and books written at Ephrata Although the commune died out in the nineteenth century the site and many of the buildings survived Today the Ephrata Cloisters Park is operated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

The Ephrata Commune Everett Gordon Alderfer, 1985 Tells of the founding and subsequent history of Ephrata a mystical religious community that flourished in eastern Pennsylvania in the mid eighteenth century Its leader Conrad Beissel a German Pietist who came to America in 1720 seeking spiritual peace and solitude Settled in Lancaster County his talents and charisma attracted other German settlers who shared his vision of a community built in the image of apostolic Christianity

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Protestant Communalism in the Trans-Atlantic World, 1650-1850 Philip Lockley, 2016-04-29 This book explores the trans Atlantic history of Protestant traditions of communalism communities of shared property The sixteenth century Reformation may have destroyed monasticism in northern Europe but Protestant Christianity has not always denied common property Between 1650 and 1850 a range of Protestant groups adopted communal goods frequently after crossing the Atlantic to North America the Ephrata community the Shakers the Harmony Society the Community of True Inspiration and others Early Mormonism also developed with a communal dimension challenging its surrounding Protestant culture of individualism and the free market In a series of focussed and survey studies this book recovers the trans Atlantic networks and narratives ideas and influences which shaped Protestant communalism across two centuries of early modernity

Communal Utopias and the American Experience Religious Communities, 1732-2000 Robert P. Sutton, 2003-09-30 American communalism is not a disjointed erratic almost ephemeral part of our past but an on going essential part of American history This important study begins with an examination of America's first religious utopia at Ephrata near Lancaster Pennsylvania in 1732 and traces successive utopian experiments in the United States through the following centuries The author demonstrates that the utopian communal story is an integral facet of the Puritan concept of America as a city upon a hill and a beacon light for the world where the perfect society could be built and where it could flourish After discussing the Ephrata Cloister 1724-1812 the author turns to the dozen or so Shaker communities that spread utopian communalism from New England to the Ohio Valley frontier in the antebellum years Next he examines the various Separatists as well as the Oneida Community He traces the history of the Hutterite utopias from Russia to the Great Plains and Canada between the Civil War and World War I In a chapter on California counter culture communities he analyzes the Theosophist communes at Point Loma and Temple Home Finally he discusses modern religious utopias ranging from the Koreshian Unity at Estero Florida to Zion City near Chicago Dorothy Day's Catholic Worker Movement the Sufi Utopia in the Berkshire Mountains and the Pandanaram Settlement in Indiana

America's Communal Utopias Donald E. Pitzer, 2010-01-20 From the Shakers to the Branch Davidians America's communal utopians have captured the popular imagination Seventeen original essays here demonstrate the relevance of such groups to the

mainstream of American social religious and economic life The contributors examine the beliefs and practices of the most prominent utopian communities founded before 1965 including the long overlooked Catholic monastic communities and Jewish agricultural colonies Also featured are the Ephrata Baptists Moravians Shakers Harmonists Hutterites Inspirationists of Amana Mormons Owenites Fourierists Icarians Janssonists Theosophists Cyrus Teed's Koreshans and Father Divine's Peace Mission Based on a new conceptual framework known as developmental communalism the book examines these utopian movements throughout the course of their development before during and after their communal period Each chapter includes a brief chronology giving basic information about the group discussed An appendix presents the most complete list of American utopian communities ever published The contributors are Jonathan G Andelson Karl J R Arndt Pearl W Bartelt Priscilla J Brewer Donald F Durnbaugh Lawrence Foster Carl J Guarneri Robert V Hine Gertrude E Huntington James E Landing Dean L May Lawrence J McCrank J Gordon Melton Donald E Pitzer Robert P Sutton Jon Wagner and Robert S Weisbrot

A History of the Book in America Hugh Amory, David D. Hall, 2009-09-15 The Colonial Book in the Atlantic World carries the interrelated stories of publishing writing and reading from the beginning of the colonial period in America up to 1790 Three major themes run through the volume the persisting connections between the book trade in the Old World and the New evidenced in modes of intellectual and cultural exchange and the dominance of imported chiefly English books the gradual emergence of a competitive book trade in which newspapers were the largest form of production and the institution of a culture of the Word organized around an essentially theological understanding of print authorship and reading complemented by other frameworks of meaning that included the culture of republicanism The Colonial Book in the Atlantic World also traces the histories of literary and learned culture censorship and freedom of the press and literacy and orality Contributors Hugh Amory Ross W Beales The College of the Holy Cross John Bidwell Princeton University Library Richard D Brown University of Connecticut Charles E Clark University of New Hampshire James N Green Library Company of Philadelphia David D Hall Harvard Divinity School Russell L Martin Southern Methodist University E Jennifer Monaghan Brooklyn College of The City University of New York James Raven University of Essex Elizabeth Carroll Reilly Hardwick Massachusetts A Gregg Roeber Pennsylvania State University David S Shields University of South Carolina Calhoun Winton University of Maryland

Empires of God Linda Gregerson, Susan Juster, 2013-02-11 Religion and empire were inseparable forces in the early modern Atlantic world Religious passions and conflicts drove much of the expansionist energy of post Reformation Europe providing both a rationale and a practical mode of organizing the dispersal and resettlement of hundreds of thousands of people from the Old World to the New World Exhortations to conquer new peoples were the lingua franca of Western imperialism and men like the mystically inclined Christopher Columbus were genuinely inspired to risk their lives and their fortunes to bring the gospel to the Americas And in the thousands of religious refugees seeking asylum from the vicious wars of religion that tore the continent apart in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries these visionary

explorers found a ready pool of migrants English Puritans and Quakers French Huguenots German Moravians Scots Irish Presbyterians equally willing to risk life and limb for a chance to worship God in their own way Focusing on the formative period of European exploration settlement and conquest in the Americas from roughly 1500 to 1760 *Empires of God* brings together historians and literary scholars of the English French and Spanish Americas around a common set of questions How did religious communities and beliefs create empires and how did imperial structures transform New World religions How did Europeans and Native Americans make sense of each other's spiritual systems and what acts of linguistic and cultural transition did this entail What was the role of violence in New World religious encounters Together the essays collected here demonstrate the power of religious ideas and narratives to create kingdoms both imagined and real

The Practice of Folklore Simon J. Bronner, 2019-08-01 Winner of the 2020 Chicago Folklore Prize CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title for 2020 Despite predictions that commercial mass culture would displace customs of the past traditions firmly abound often characterized as folklore In *The Practice of Folklore: Essays toward a Theory of Tradition* author Simon J. Bronner works with theories of cultural practice to explain the social and psychological need for tradition in everyday life Bronner proposes a distinctive praxic perspective that will answer the pressing philosophical as well as psychological question of why people enjoy repeating themselves The significance of the keyword practice he asserts is the embodiment of a tension between repetition and variation in human behavior Thinking with practice particularly in a digital world forces redefinitions of folklore and a reorientation toward interpreting everyday life More than performance or enactment in social theory practice connects localized culture with the vernacular idea that this is the way we do things around here Practice refers to the way those things are analyzed as part of rather than apart from theory thus inviting the study of studying The way we do things invokes the social basis of doing in practice as cultural and instrumental Building on previous studies of tradition in relation to creativity Bronner presents an overview of practice theory and the ways it might be used in folklore and folklife studies Demonstrating the application of this theory in folkloristic studies Bronner offers four provocative case studies of psychocultural meanings that arise from traditional frames of action and address issues of our times referring to the boogiemani connecting wild child beliefs to school shootings deciphering the offensive chants of sports fans and explicating male bravado in bawdy singing Turning his analysis to the analysts of tradition Bronner uses practice theory to evaluate the agenda of folklorists in shaping perceptions of tradition centered folk societies such as the Amish He further unpacks the culturally based rationale of public folklore programming He interprets the evolving idea of folk museums in a digital world and assesses how the folklorists' terms and actions affect how people think about tradition

American Studies Jack Salzman, 1990-05-25 This volume supplements the acclaimed three volume set published in 1986 and consists of an annotated listing of American Studies monographs published between 1984 and 1988 There are more than 6 000 descriptive entries in a wide range of categories anthropology and folklore art and architecture history literature music political science popular

culture psychology religion science and technology and sociology *Becoming German* Philip Otterness,2006-12-07

Becoming German tells the story of the largest and earliest mass movement of German speaking immigrants to America the Palatine migration of 1709 tracking their journey from Germany to London to New York City and into the frontier areas of New York *Becoming German* Philip L. Otterness,2013-11-12 *Becoming German* tells the intriguing story of the largest and earliest mass movement of German speaking immigrants to America The so called Palatine migration of 1709 began in the western part of the Holy Roman Empire where perhaps as many as thirty thousand people left their homes lured by rumors that Britain s Queen Anne would give them free passage overseas and land in America They journeyed down the Rhine and eventually made their way to London where they settled in refugee camps The rumors of free passage and land proved false but in an attempt to clear the camps the British government finally agreed to send about three thousand of the immigrants to New York in exchange for several years of labor After their arrival the Palatines refused to work as indentured servants and eventually settled in autonomous German communities near the Iroquois of central New York *Becoming German* tracks the Palatines travels from Germany to London to New York City and into the frontier areas of New York Philip Otterness demonstrates that the Palatines cannot be viewed as a cohesive German group until after their arrival in America indeed they came from dozens of distinct principalities in the Holy Roman Empire It was only in refusing to assimilate to British colonial culture instead maintaining separate German speaking communities and mixing on friendly terms with Native American neighbors that the Palatines became German in America **A History of the Book in America, 5-volume Omnibus E-book** David D. Hall,2015-10-08 The five volumes in *A History of the Book in America* offer a sweeping chronicle of our country s print production and culture from colonial times to the end of the twentieth century This interdisciplinary collaborative work of scholarship examines the book trades as they have developed and spread throughout the United States provides a history of U S literary cultures investigates the practice of reading and more broadly the uses of literacy and links literary culture with larger themes in American history Now available for the first time this complete Omnibus ebook contains all 5 volumes of this landmark work Volume 1 *The Colonial Book in the Atlantic World* Edited by Hugh Amory and David D Hall 664 pp 51 illus Volume 2 *An Extensive Republic Print Culture and Society in the New Nation 1790 1840* Edited by Robert A Gross and Mary Kelley 712 pp 66 illus Volume 3 *The Industrial Book 1840 1880* Edited by Scott E Casper Jeffrey D Groves Stephen W Nissenbaum and Michael Winship 560 pp 43 illus Volume 4 *Print in Motion The Expansion of Publishing and Reading in the United States 1880 1940* Edited by Carl F Kaestle and Janice A Radway 688 pp 74 illus Volume 5 *The Enduring Book Print Culture in Postwar America* Edited by David Paul Nord Joan Shelley Rubin and Michael Schudson 632 pp 95 illus **Diversity and Unity in Early North America** Phillip Morgan,2005-09-27 Philip Morgan s selection of cutting edge essays by leading historians represents the extraordinary vitality of recent historical literature on early America The book opens up previously unexplored areas such as cultural diversity ethnicity and gender and reveals the importance of new

methods such as anthropology and historical demography to the study of early America

The Rise and Fall of Synanon Rod Janzen, 2023-10-03 The definitive account of Synanon On a fall day in 1978 Los Angeles attorney Paul Morantz reached into his mailbox to collect his mail and was nearly killed He was bitten by the four foot long rattlesnake that had been put there by members of a cultlike group called Synanon Chuck Dederich a former Alcoholics Anonymous member who coined the phrase Today is the first day of the rest of your life established Synanon as an innovative drug rehabilitation center near the Santa Monica beach in 1958 Synanon quickly evolved into an experimental commune and religion that attracted thousands of members and was strongly committed to social justice and progressive education Twenty years later when Dederich was arrested for the Morantz attack Synanon had devolved into a paranoid community that followed its egomaniacal leader in whatever direction he chose to take Based on extensive primary sources and interviews with former members The Rise and Fall of Synanon explores how the group arose in the context of American social political and economic trends Historian Rod Janzen argues that Synanon s downfall resulted from members giving too much power to Synanon s charismatic founder The subject of a new documentary and podcast this community serves as a mesmerizing case study of how alternative societies can change over time and how the general public s reactions to such societies can shift from tolerance to fear and opposition

Signs, Cures, and Witchery Gerald C. Milnes, 2024-01-12 Signs Cures Witchery provides a fascinating glimpse of some little known Appalachian beliefs and practices among descendants of early German pioneers Signs Cures and Witchery opens a window into our ancient past revealing the courage and resourcefulness of people whose survival depended on their ability to read signs cure their own ills and find explanations for life s mysteries Local community practices in West Virginia such as witch doctoring belsnickling shanghai and folk healing are connected to their medieval counterparts in woodcuts and other works of art In tracing immigration to remote mountain communities we learn how expressions of folk art and folk belief survive This work specifically examines aspects of Appalachian oral tradition and folklore that draw from German culture Informative and entertaining Signs Cures and Witchery is an invaluable aid to all who have an interest in religion psychology folklore metaphysical regional gender and ethnic studies

New Directions in American Religious History Harry S. Stout, D. G. Hart, 1998-01-01 The eighteen essays collected in this book had their origin in a conference of the same title held at the Wingspread Conference Center in October of 1993 Some of the most distinguished scholars in the field were invited to reflect on their specialties in American religious history in ways that summarized where the field is and where it ought to move in the decades to come Organized according to four general ways of looking at religious history places and regions universal themes transformative events and marginal groups and ethno cultural outsiders the essays address a wide range of topics including Puritanism religion and the Civil War Protestantism and economic behavior gender and sexuality in American Protestantism and the contemporary de Christianization of American culture Featuring contributions from David D Hall Donald G Matthews Allen C Guelzo Gordon S Wood Daniel

Walker Howe Robert Wuthnow Jon Butler David A Hollinger and others this thought provoking and up to date collection will interest anyone involved in the study of American religion and history **The Body and the Book** Julia Spicher Kasdorf,2009-01-01 A collection of essays by poet Julia Spicher Kasdorf focusing on aspects of Mennonite life Essays examine issues of gender cultural and religious identity as they relate to the emergence and exercise of literary authority Provided by publisher **Community of the Cross** Craig D. Atwood,2010-11-01 Bethlehem Pennsylvania was a unique colonial town It was the first permanent outpost of the Moravians in North America and served as the headquarters for their extensive missionary efforts It was also one of the most successful communal societies in American history Bethlehem was founded as a congregation of the cross where all aspects of personal and social life were subordinated to the religious ideal of the community In Community of the Cross Craig D Atwood offers a convincing portrait of Bethlehem and its religion Visitors to Bethlehem such as Benjamin Franklin remarked on the orderly and peaceful nature of life in the community its impressive architecture and its high culture However many non Moravians were embarrassed or even offended by the social and devotional life of the Moravians The adoration of the crucified Jesus especially his wounds was the focus of intense devotion for adults and children alike Moravians worshiped the Holy Spirit as Mother and they made the mystical marriage to Christ central to their marital intimacy Everything even family life was to be a form of worship Atwood reveals the deep connection between life in Bethlehem and the religious symbolism of controversial German theologian Nicholas von Zinzendorf whose provocative and erotic adoration of the wounds of Jesus was an essential part of private and communal life Using the theories of Ren Girard Mary Douglas and Victor Turner Atwood shows that it was the Moravians liturgy and devotion that united the community and inspired both its unique social structure and its missionary efforts Breaking Loose Together Marjoleine Kars,2003-04-03 Ten years before the start of the American Revolution backcountry settlers in the North Carolina Piedmont launched their own defiant bid for economic independence and political liberty The Regulator Rebellion of 1766 71 pitted thousands of farmers many of them religious radicals inspired by the Great Awakening against political and economic elites who opposed the Regulators proposed reforms The conflict culminated on May 16 1771 when a colonial militia defeated more than 2 000 armed farmers in a pitched battle near Hillsborough At least 6 000 Regulators and sympathizers were forced to swear their allegiance to the government as the victorious troops undertook a punitive march through Regulator settlements Seven farmers were hanged Using sources that include diaries church minutes legal papers and the richly detailed accounts of the Regulators themselves Marjoleine Kars delves deeply into the world and ideology of free rural colonists She examines the rebellion s economic religious and political roots and explores its legacy in North Carolina and beyond The compelling story of the Regulator Rebellion reveals just how sharply elite and popular notions of independence differed on the eve of the Revolution

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Table of Contents The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture

1. Understanding the eBook The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - The Rise of Digital Reading The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture User Reviews and Ratings
 - The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture Free and Paid eBooks
 - The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture Public Domain eBooks
 - The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture eBook Subscription Services
 - The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture Budget-Friendly Options

6. Navigating The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture Compatibility with Devices
 - The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - Interactive Elements The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
8. Staying Engaged with The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - Setting Reading Goals The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of The Ephrata Commune An Early American Counterculture
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements

- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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