

# A HISTORY OF NEW HARMONY

by Laverna Englestead

In December 1847, the General Assembly in Salt Lake commissioned Parley P. Pratt to raise a company of fifty men to explore Southern Utah. Some of these men stopped at what is now known as Parowan to explore there and others went as far south as what is now known as Santa Clara.

After John D. Lee had helped to settle Parowan, he returned to Salt Lake, July 1, 1851 to get other families and to sell his property in Salt Lake, then to return to Parowan.

In General Conference in Salt Lake, on Oct. 6, 1851, his name was read from the pulpit as one to found a new community south of Parowan and Cedar City. He was pleased with this public recognition, that he was to be father of a new community.

He urged his neighbors and friends to join him, but most of them were reluctant to leave, as they were getting well established in Salt Lake. Within a few days he was on his way with a company of nineteen wagons.

On Dec. 8, 1852, Elder George A. Smith wrote to the Deseret News, "On the first water south of the rim of the great basin, in Washington County, John D. Lee, Elisha Groves and company are building a fort on Ash Creek, called Harmony.

"Fifteen men are capable of bearing arms. Fifty one loads of lumber have been taken there from Parowan and six teams are constantly employed building the fort.

"One of the first rooms erected was a school house. The point is well selected for military purposes and commands the springs and about 160 more acres of farm land on the creek and about twenty miles off, good grazing ground. It is about 20 miles north of the Rio Virgin, which is inaccessible to teams until a road can be worked at considerable expense."

In April 1854, President Brigham Young sent twenty-three young men, with ten wagons, as missionaries to the Indians. They were to raise food and share it with the Indians, and convert them and teach them how to live.

As John D. Lee had all the tillable land on Ash Creek in use, they pulled on, some four miles to the north west, where our present town of New Harmony now stands. For a number of years our New Harmony fields were farmed for the Indian Mission.

On May 9, 1854, a horseman came to tell the Indian Missionaries that a meeting was to be held at John D. Lee's home in Harmony on Ash Creek that evening, as President Young with a group of 82 men, 14 women, 5 children, traveling in 32 carriages with 95 horses, would be there.

That evening, as they sat around on rocks, logs and on the ground, John D. Lee looked first at the audience and then at the beautiful valley, the magnificent mountains and the colorful red cliffs, and he said to himself, "Now I know this is home."

He was called upon to speak and among other things, he said, "Brethren, we are called upon again to found a settlement in these valleys of Zion. This is a beautiful valley, with good rich soil and an excellent climate. The scenery about us is magnificent and inspiring. May the Lord help us to build it strong and well."

The next day, with the help of Parley P. Pratt and his engineering instruments, a site was selected to build Fort Harmony, a place where the Kanarra and Harmony creeks could be used to water more land.

By February 1855 all inhabitants were living at the new site, Fort Harmony.

The walls of Fort Harmony were 300 feet square. The houses on the west side were two story and 16 feet high. On the other three sides, they were one story and ten feet high. The walls were three feet thick and of red adobe and rock foundation. A well was dug, which was 100 feet deep and supplied their culinary water.

Ash Creek and Kannara Creek were granted to the inhabitants of Harmony for irrigation or other purposes. This is stated in the first court records, dated February 23, 1856. Their upper ditch was about ten feet below our dry field ditch. Their lower ditch was the same that now goes through the Pace, Englestad and Woods fields.

Harmony became the first county seat after the Territorial Legislature created Washington County on March 3, 1852. Court met at Probate Judge John D. Lee's house at Fort Harmony. Selectmen Elisha Groves, Henry Barney, Richard Robinson; Clerk, Rufus Allen.

On January 1, 1855, John D. Lee was placed in charge of the Government Indian Agency with a salary of \$50 per month. He was to distribute seeds, tools and other supplies to the Indians and to help them to farm.

On January 4, 1856, in answer to a petition of 32 men (total male population) a county government was set up with the County Seat in Harmony with J. D. Lee Probate Judge and assessor.

On May 21, 1857, 21 wagons passed Fort Harmony on their way to settle Washington, as a road had been built over the Black Ridge.

On July 4, 1857, there was a great celebration at Fort Harmony as President Haight from Cedar City, with his choir and brass band came. A meeting was held and President Haight gave the oration. A beef was barbecued and there was plenty of home-made beer (root beer) and lemonade, with sports and dancing.

On July 24, the tenth anniversary of the arrival of the pioneers to Utah, Harmony went to Cedar City to a meeting, town dinner and sports and dancing.

On May 20, 1855, at conference in Cedar City, the people living in Harmony and Cedar City were organized into a stake with Isaac Haight, president, and William Rees Davis bishop of Harmony.

Most of the wagon trains going to California stopped with Lee in Harmony. At 31 cents per person per meal, the same for cattle, Lee often took in from \$20 to \$75, depending on the size of the train. One large train stayed so long that he took in \$175 by his wives cooking night and day.

John D. Lee often entertained visitors of church and state. Upon one occasion, he entertained 125 church officials for three meals. He butchered two beefs and two sheep for them.

By 1860, the people of Fort Harmony decided it would be best to move closer to the head of Kannara and Ash Creek. Kannara was settled in June 1860 by people from Harmony (Fort) and Cedar City. The residents of Fort Harmony were then preparing to move to New Harmony.

On March 4, 1859, the court was moved to Washington and John D. Lee handed over all of the County records.

In 1859, a post office was established with Elisha Groves postmaster. In 1865, William Pace succeeded him. Then came Archie Bell, Harvey A. Pace, Mary Taylor, George F. Prince and Sylvia p. Hall.

Late in November 1861, a company passed, going to settle Saint George; also a Swiss company passed, going to settle in Santa Clara.

Lee had planned on building a nice brick home not far from the large pine tree at the foot of Pine Valley Mountain, where he could look down on his fields and also at the beautiful scenery. He was making brick for his home and had finished homes for some of his wives at the new location.

On December 22, 1861, the people of New Harmony met at Lee's Hall at New Harmony and John D. Lee was appointed Presiding Elder with William Pace clerk, and James Pace and Richard Woolsey were appointed teachers.

On December 25, 1861, Lee gave a town dinner at his home, called "Lee's Hall", a large frame building in New Harmony. All residents of the town were invited.

Lee had wanted so much to get all of his families moved to the new location before winter set in (1861), but was unable to do so.

On January 18, 1862, John D. Lee, with the help of William and Harvey Pace and George W. Sevy, took three wagons with eight yoke of cattle to each wagon and moved all of the families from the fort except Sarah Caroline. The road was so muddy that the axles dragged on the ground.

Lee's wife, Sarah Caroline, wanted to finish weaving some cloth she had in a loom. Due to excessive rains for 28 days, the walls in the fort fell in, killing two Lee children, a girl and a boy, aged 5 and 7 years on February 7, 1862. These children were buried on Lee's farm in New Harmony, which he sold to Lemuel H. Redd in 1870, and which now is owned by the Henry A. Pace family.

In 1862, \$3000 was donated by the people of the Southern Mission to build a road from Harmony to St. George. This wasn't enough so in 1863, \$2000 more was donated and Isaac Duffin was sustained as superintendant of construction.

On March 25, 1863, a meeting was held in New Harmony as they were asked to furnish three outfits, wagons with four yoke of cattle each, to go to Florence, Nebraska to help bring out the poor saints. The wagons were furnished with provisions and M. H. Darrow, George Woolsey and Benjamin Redd were sustained by vote to make the trip.

At the close of 1865, twenty-five families of 265 souls lived in New Harmony. Among the early settlers of New Harmony were: The Lees, Woolseys, Paces, Redds, Heywoods, Lossens, Sevys, Kelsys, Jolleys, Keels, Worthens, Hills, Darrows, Whitmers, Markers, Bennetts, Taylors, Bryners, Naegles, Mathises, Princes, Imlays, Hicks, Moncurs, Grants, Schmutzes, Barlochers, Guymans, Harts, Pierces, Harrises, Sawyers, Richarsons, and Owens. The Woolsey's brother-in-law helped Lee to settle Harmony, Fort Harmony and New Harmony.

Cedar City and Parowan were settled ten years before, in 1861. In 1853, there were 392 people living in Parowan and 455 in Cedar City.

On August 20, 1867, the New Harmony Ward was organized by President Erastus Snow with Wilson D. Pace, bishop and Henry B. M. Jolley first counselor and George W. Sevy second counselor and Samuel Worthen clerk. Previous to this, John D. Lee and James Islay had served as Presiding Elders.

In 1861-62, a large number of people were called from northern and middle counties of Utah to help settle Southern Utah. Some of these stayed to help settle New Harmony.

The first Relief Society President was Ann Mariah Redd Pace, with Keziah Butler Redd and Margaret Evans Pace as counselors and Mary A. Taylor secretary.

The first Primary President was Elizabeth Mathis with Mary Pace and Caroline Redd as counselors and Granville Pace as secretary and treasurer.

Our first chorister was Elizabeht Mathis. She was a talented musician and taught everyone to sing. She helped with all entertainments for years.

The first Sunday School Superintendency was Joseph L. Heywood, Harvey A. Pace and Francis Prince.

The first YLMIA president was Pauline Pace with Aner Taylor and Jane Redd as counselors.

The first Young Men's president was Orren Kelsey.

Our Bishops have been Wilson D. Pace, William A. Redd, Gottlieb Schmutz, Henry A. Pace, Elmer Taylor, Lyle B. Prince, Marion Prince, Dean Hall, Sheldon Grant and Lyle B. Prince.

The first School teachers were Joseph L. Heywood, Mary A. Taylor, Archie Bell, Charles Connely and George Dodds.

In 1869, a cooperative institution was organized with Wilson D. Pace, president, H. B. M. Jolley, vice president, George W. Sevy, William Pace and John D. Lee as directors; Harvey A. Pace, secretary and James Russell, treasurer. Capitol stock was \$1200.

In 1874, the united order was organized with Bishop Wilson D. Pace, president; Lemuel H. Redd, vice-president. This organization lasted only one summer.

The first school house was log, built in 1863. In 1875, a white frame building was built which served as our church until the present church was built in 1953. For some

time we used the white church for a school building. We also have had two other school buildings, one a cement building and one a modern two-roomed school building which burned in 1957. Since that time our students have all been transported by bus to Cedar City Elementary and High Schools.

In April 1857, the militia of Utah was divided into thirteen districts. In 1866 and 1867, the Southern Division of the militia trained here, east of our town, under Brigadier General Erastus Snow and Captain James Andrus.

Our dry field ditch was made and used by them at that time for their water. At that time, the flat was covered with tents and many men took part in spirited sham battles.

A monument was dedicated in their honor by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, December 10, 1940.

Another monument was dedicated September 26, 1960 by our D.U.P.'s on the site where our white frame church stood which served us so long. This is just north of our present church. The D.U.P. was organized June 23, 1937, with Lula W. Mathis, captain.

Harvey A. Pace was elected Justice of the Peace in New Harmony Precinct, Kane Co., on August 1, 1881

A weekly mail route from Cedar City to Santa Clara, by way of New Harmony, Toquerville, Washington and St. George was opened up on July 1, 1862.

We were in Kane county during the days of the Silver Reef with Toquerville as our County Seat. Two of our postmasters were appointed during this time by the Postmaster General of the United States. Harvey A. Pace was appointed postmaster of New Harmony, Kane County, Utah, on October 24, 1876. Abbie H. Pace, daughter-in-law, and Emma G. Hilsen, granddaughter now have these on file.

Reed Prisbrey now has two water certificates, issued when we were part of Kane County, signed by Lemuel H. Redd and two others, the Kane County water commissioners.

These were issued and recorded in the Kane County Record, May 2, 1881. Lemuel H. Redd states in his life's history, dictated by himself, that he was a member of the Kane County Court for six years. He was a resident of our town during that time.

After President Brigham Young asked John D. Lee to sell his property in New Harmony, as they needed him to help run saw mills in South Eastern Utah, he sold his farm and homes to Lemuel H. Redd. The Lees all felt blue about leaving their nice

homes, farm, orchards, etc., for this valley had been their home for almost twenty years, and they had all worked so hard to make everything so nice.

New Harmony secured the telephone in 1902, the piped culinary water in 1907 and the electric lights in 1927.

The first merchant was William Pace, followed by the New Harmony Co-op and the stores of Bishop William A. Redd, Sarah P. Davis, Bishop William Graff and Dean Hall.

In about 1910, all the land on the New Harmony flat was fenced, and since has been under cultivation. This has been a great asset to the town.

In the days before the automobile and county hospitals, there were women who spent many hours and days caring for the sick. Among these women were: Ann Mariah Redd Pace and her sister, Elizabeth Redd Pace, Julia A. Taylor, Keziah Redd, Elizabeth Prince, Ann Eliza Imlay, Clarissa Woolsey, Susan E. Pace, Icaivinda Pace Rance, Eliza Kelsey, Sarah Prince Davis and Amelia Schmutz.

We, the descendants of the stalwart pioneers, who settled this little community, are extremely proud of our pioneer heritage. We wish today to pay tribute to these noble pioneers and to their courage and resourcefulness. We can partly appreciate the great sacrifices they made when we remember that at first they had to live in dugouts and log rooms with boughs for roofs and dirt floors, with only the pitch or tallow candles for light.

They had to make it sustain them or perish, and by cooperative effort of the group and the help of their God, they were able to subdue the physical obstacles, to protect themselves from the hostile Indians and to build themselves homes that have been an honor to them and their descendants.

They couldn't have seen our wonderful highway with its thousands of cars, nor did they know that the beautiful red cliffs, which they admired so much would become part of Zion's National Park. They couldn't tell that hunters, yes, hundreds of them, would come every year to hunt deer on picturesque Pine Valley Mountain.

We are very proud of all you people, who have moved away from our little town. We hated to see you go, and we've missed you all so much. You are all highly respected citizens, wherever you've gone, from Canada to Mexico.

Many of you have filled positions of trust both in civic and religious organizations. Among you we find doctors, bishops, senators, stake presidents, school teachers, business men and women, nurses, missionaries and many other honorable

professions. You've been an honor to yourselves and to our little town, wherever you've settled.

We wish to pay tribute to all of you today.

P.S. The Redds and the Paces were converts of John D. Lee. He converted them in 1843, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee while he was an LDS missionary there. I'm sure all will be well with Brother Lee when the truth's known.

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I think Aunt Lura or Aunt Vilo gave this to Mom when we visited with them. I have recopied it, and I am sending this to each of my brothers and sisters or a member of each family.

HOW BLESSED TO HAVE THESE EXAMPLES OF FAITH AND WORKS.

MERRY CHRISTMAS 1995 LOVE, BARBARA

There is another single page in this package which seems to be from a larger manuscript. Probably written by Aunt Lura Redd on her little typewriter. It is about Hans Ulrich Bryner Jr. ... Price. Then he asked if I were related to John Redd. Then too, I said I was related to Bryners, the Paces, Mathises, that my Grandfather Bryner was a pioneer of Price.

He asked if the blind man was my grandfather. When I said he was, he said, "That blind man was the smartest man I ever knew. He could tell the color of a horse by the feel of it."

Years later I told Aunt Lillie (Fransen) about it and she said he really couldn't, but that he got the reputation through the following incident.

Grandfather was a good judge of horseflesh. Then people did a lot of horse trading, and grandfather did it too. And he never got beat on a horse trade. He could tell a lot about a horse by feel. He would feel of its back, the arch of the neck, the shape of its legs, head and mouth, etc.



His friends and neighbors had a lot of confidence in his judgment and would come for him to appraise their trade-ins.

One day, he was going over one, and the little fellow who was leading him said, "It's the same color as old so and so."

Nobody paid any attention to the little fellow, that is nobody but Grandfather. He was trained to listen to the little fellows. That's where he got a lot of his information. So when he had finished feeling it, he patted the horse and said, "You have a very fine bay horse here." Several men had been standing there, and their mouths dropped open, and they were astonished. And the word went about that Brother Bryner could tell a horse's color by the feel.

Freighting, at that time, was the most remunerative job one could do, so Grandfather went into freighting. He had always been a good horseman, and knew all the angles. The only thing he lacked was his sight. Aunt Lucette went with him a lot of times to Salt Lake on freighting trips. She drove a four horse team ahead of him and he drove a single team that had been trained to follow. Going along those soft dirt roads, it was quiet, and they could talk back and forth as they went along, and she could keep him informed as to what was coming or going. I guess they all had a turn to go with him on his freighting trips.

Grandfather was not only a good judge of horses, he knew wagons. He had a very good, but not a new wagon. One day the young boys came in, all excited with the news that a man was here who would trade them a new wagon for their old one.

When they told Grandfather, he said that sounded funny to him and said, "Let me look at that wagon." They took him out to see it. He felt it, the wheels were heavy and good, the axles strong and well made, it had a good double wagon box. All seemed in order until he got behind it and measured the width of the box.

"A narrow gauge wagon, I wouldn't have it, if you gave it to me."

All the wagons in the territory had been wide gauge, and the ruts were for them. These new fangled narrow ones put one side in a rut, and the other wouldn't reach the other rut, so it bumped along over the rocks and other bumps in the middle, making it hard to pull and uncomfortable to ride in. I guess they thought it would be easy to fool a blind man and his little boy.

Uncle Johnnie told me he started to be his father's guide as a freighter when he was eight years old. At that time, grandfather had one good, lively horse and a slowpoke. While in Toquerville, he traded the slow one for a lively one.

On the way home to New Harmony, they, and especially the new one, wanted to run all the way. Grandfather could control them all right, and Johnnie put his little hands on Grandfather's and guided them. They went slow over the dugway where it was necessary, but he let them run, out on the flat. People in New Harmony who saw them coming on the run and the dust flying, thought something was wrong.

When it came close enough for them to recognize grandfather's wagon, they then thought they were running away. But they dashed down the hill and stopped in front of home. Uncle Henry had been called from his plowing, and took that very lively horse on and plowed with him a few hours to teach him a lesson.

About this time, they took a load of freight out to Pioche, a booming mining town of that day. A freighter always carried a grub box in which they had bread, flour, baking powder, salt, bacon, eggs, frying pan, kettle, etc. They also carried their bedding and slept in their wagon. They arrived safely at Pioche, and camped in the campground or inn yard.

This large yard was made for freighters to camp in. It was also a camphouse, empty except for a fireplace where campers could go if it rained, and where they could do their cooking over the fire there.

That night, as they rested up for the trip home, a man came to the inn boss and asked if there was a blind man and a little boy in the grounds. He would like to meet them.

So the inn man introduced him to them (grandpa and the boy). He said he had a load of nails to take to Las Vegas. He only drove a buckboard which wasn't strong enough to carry the nails.

They would pay well if they (Grandpa and Johnnie) would go.

The man and his friends would go along and show them the way and also show them good places to camp.

Grandfather accepted the task, and they proceeded on their way. In the buckboard were four men and four saddles. They had four horses that would pull the wagon, lead behind it, or were good saddle horses. Sometimes four men rode in the buckboard and led two horses, sometimes two were horseback and two in the buckboard.

The wagon went in the middle with the horseman in front or behind the buckboard opposite.

At night, the man arranged to have grandfather camp near their room so they could get a good early start.

When they arrived at Las Vegas, they were led right up to the bank, where they were unloaded and they then found out that they were carrying the pay roll of a big mining company and the four men were armed guards. If there were any nails in the kegs, there was also \$50,000 worth of gold coin.

Uncle Johnnie thought they chose a blind man and a little boy because no bandit would ever suspect that they were carrying it (gold) and also the guards thought that a blind man and a little boy wouldn't snoop. They arrived safely, and grandfather was well paid for the trip, so all were happy with the ending.

Grandfather lived in St. George for years, then he moved out to Price. When he grew old and retired from heavy work, he did a lot of temple work. He would go to Price for the summer and spend the winters in St. George working at the temple.

As he traveled each way, he would stop and visit his children who lived in between the two communities.

On one of his last trips, he stopped at New Harmony and was there over a Fast Sunday. He went to testimony meeting with us and bore his testimony and thanked the Lord for all his blessings. He even thanked Him for taking his eyesight.

As with his eyesight, he meant that he was thankful for all the trials that had come upon him since he had accepted the gospel in far-off Switzerland. He was thankful for all the pain and torture of his eye that was knocked out, the infection that got in, in a time when they had no antiseptics nor anaesthetics to ease the pain which lasted day and night...(end of page)