

HISTORY OF NEW HARMONY

Written by Melissa D. Hammond, Camp Historian of D. U. P. and La Verna T. Engleshtead, Secretary of Fort Harmony Camp of D. U. P. December 1940.

On February 3, 1852, Legislation Acts approved the organization of the counties of Iron and Washington, along with other counties.

In 1852, John D. Lee, Richard Woolsey, Wm. R. Davis and others, founded Harmony on Ash Creek, south of Old Fort Harmony. Due to trouble with the Indians and not enough land, they decided to abandon the idea of making homes there, and to establish Fort Harmony, May 9, 1854.

The walls of this Fort were 300 feet square. The houses on the east side were one story and the walls were ten feet high, and on the west side the houses were two stories and the wall was sixteen feet high. The walls were two feet thick and in the center a well was dug, which was one hundred feet deep, and which supplied their culinary water. They got their irrigation water from New Harmony and Kanarrah Creeks. The upper ditch that carried water to them was about ten feet below our dry field ditch, and the lower one was the same that now goes through the Englestead's and LaBaron's fields.

Fort Harmony was the county seat of Washington County until January 11, 1859, when it was changed to the town of Washington in Washington County.

On November 29, 1861, Aostles Erastus Snow and George A. Smith, with a large number of others, were called to locate settlements along the valleys of the Rio Virgin River and Santa Clara Creek, for the purpose of raising cotton. On December 4, 1861 at a meeting of these settlers it was decided on a motion of Erastus Snow, to build the city of Saint George. The next year 100,000 pounds of cotton were raised in Washington County. Cedar City and Parowan were settled ten years before in 1851. According to the report read at the October Conference in Salt Lake in 1853, there 292 people living in Parowan at aht time and 455 living in Cedar City.

During the years of 1861 and 1862 ~~and~~ a large number of people were called from the northern and middle counties of Utah to settle in Southern Utah. Some of these stayed to help the settlers of Fort Harmony build New Harmony.

The settlers of Fort Harmony thought it best to get closer to the sources of their water, so half of the people living in the Fort moved to New Fort Harmony, now on the farm owned by Henry A. Pace was once called Lee Farm, and half moved to help found Kanarraville. They were joined by settlers from the North in 1861 and 1862, and together they built the present town of New Harmony.

On February 6, 1862, due to the excessive rains for 28 days, the adobe walls of Old Fort Harmony crumbled and fell in, causing the death of two children of John Doyal Lee's, a boy and a girl aged five and seven years. The remaining few abandoned the Old Fort then.

Among the early settlers of New Harmony were the Lee's, Woolseys, Paces, Redds, Heywoods, Lawsons, Sevys, Kelseys, Jolleys, Keels, Bennetts, Markers, Taylors, Prymers, Naegles, Whitmers, Mathis, Harts, Perces, Harrisers, Sawyers, Richardsons, Bennets, Darrows, Worthens, Hills, and Owens. We can partly appreciate the great sacrifices these noble pioneers made, when we remember how they suffered while crossing the plains, then the hardships they endured after reaching this valley, for a few years they were compelled to live in dugouts and log rooms with boughs and dirt roofs, and bare dirt floors and the tallow-bitch or tallow candle for lights. A number of babies were born in these crude homes.

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

Even while they were struggling to exist, a call came from President Brigham Young asking that they send three outfits back to Florence on the Missouri River to bring to Utah a number of the poor Saints. They readily responded and in the spring of 1863 the following named men were called to aid--Richard Woolsey was in charge of outfitting one wagon with these men to help: Hyrum Woolsey, Thomas A. Woolsey, H. Woolsey, John D. Lee, Wm. Woolsey, Thomas Woolsey, (A member of the Mormon Battalion), Ruben Woolsey, C. Whitmer, Peter Marker. Outfit No. 2--William Pace, Harvey Pace, James Pace,

Record ends here