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HISTORY OF NEW HARMONY

August 20, 1962

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 his other families and sell his property in Salt Lake, then return to Parowan.

In General Conference in Salt Lake on October 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 December 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 acres of farm land on the creek and about 20 miles of 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 to 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 Pres. Young, with a group of 82 men, 14 women, 5 children, traveling in 34 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 best 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 of red adobe and a rock foundation. A well was dug, which was 100 feet deep and which supplied their culinary water.

Ash Creek and Kanarra Creeks 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 10 feet below our dry field ditch. Their lower ditch was the same that now goes through the Paces', Englesteads' 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. Selectman Elisha Groves, Henry Barney, Richard Robinson. Clerk: Rufus C. Allen.

On January 1, 1855, John D. Lee was placed in charge of the Government Indian Agency with a salary of \$50.00 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 Pres. Haight gave the oration. A beef was barbecued and there was plenty of homemade malt beer and lemonade with sports and dancing.

On July 24th (the 10th anniversary of the arrival of the Pioneers of 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¢ per person, per meal (the same for cattle) Lee often took in from \$20.00 to \$75.00, depending on the size of the train. One large train stayed so long that he took in \$175.00, 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 the visitors.

By 1860 the people of Fort Harmony decided it would be best to move closer to the head of Kanarra and Ash Creek. Kanarra was settled in June of 1860 by people from Fort Harmony and Cedar City. The residents of Fort Harmony were then preparing to move to New Harmony. Homes had to be built first. New Harmony was settled in 1860-61.

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,

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Mary Taylor, George F. Prince, Dean Hall, and Sylvia P. Hall.

Late in November 1861, a company of 300 families passed Fort Harmony 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 this 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 at 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 now is owned by the Henry A. Pace family.

In 1862, \$3,000.00 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, \$2,000.00 more was donated and Isaac Duffin was sustained as Supt. 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, 25 families of 265 souls lived at New Harmony. Among the early settlers of New Harmony were: the Lees, Woolseys, Paces, Redds, Heywoods, Lossens, Sevys, Kelseys, Jolleys, Keels, Worthens, Hills, Darrows, Whitmers, Markers, Bennets, Taylors, Bryners, Naegles, Mathises, Princes, Imlays, Hicks, Moncurs, Grants, Schmätzes, Barlochers, Guymans, Harts, Pierces, Harrises, Sawyers, Richardsons, and Owens. The Woolseys' brothers-in-law helped Lee to settle Harmony, Fort Harmony and New Harmony.

Cedar City and Parowan were settled ten years before, in 1851. In 1853 there were 392 people living in Parowan and 455 living 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 1st Counsellor; George W. Sevy 2nd Counsellor; and Samuel Worthen Clerk. Previous to this, John D. Lee and James Finlay had served as Presiding Elders.

In 1861-62 a large number of people were called from the northern

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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 Moriah 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 Elizabeth Mathis. She was a talented musician and taught everyone to sing. She helped with all entertainments for many years.

The first Sunday School Superintendent was Joseph L. Heywood - Harvey A. Pace and Francis Prince.

The first Y.L.M.I.A. - President was Pauline Pace with Anor Taylor and Jane Redd as counselors. The first Young Mens' 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 and our present bishop, Bishop Sheldon Grant.

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, John D. Lee, directors; Harvey A. Pace, Secretary and James Russell, Treasurer. Capital Stock - \$1,200.00.

In 1874 the United Order was organized with Bishop Wilson D. Pace, President; Le muel 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 building for school. We also have had two other school buildings, one a cement building and one a modern two room school building which burned in 1957. Since that time our students have all been transported by bus to the Cedar City Elementary and High School.

In April, 1857, the militia of Utah was divided into 13 military 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 Pioneers December 10, 1940. Another monument was dedicated Sept. 26, 1960 by our U.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's. 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 1st, 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 1st, 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



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appointed Postmaster of New Harmony, Kane County, Utah, on Oct. 23, 1876 and Mary A. Taylor was appointed Postmaster of New Harmony, Kane County, Utah on Sept. 24, 1878. Abbie H. Pace, daughter-in-law, and Emma G. Nielson, 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 Pres. 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 very 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 *and Television in 1960.*

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 our sick. Among these women were: Ann Moriah Redd Pace and her sister, Elizabeth Redd Pace, Julia A. Taylor, Keziah Redd, Elizabeth Prince, Ann Eliza Inlay, Clarissa Woolsey, Susan E. Pace, Icavinda 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 and dirt floors, with only the tallow bitch or tallow candle for a light. They had to make it sustain them or perish and by the 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 see 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 of 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, 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.

*written by*  
*Laverne J. Angleton*

*The Redd and Pace families. Converts of John W. Pugh, who lived for years in the community. Many of them were in the community in 1843.*

*From the  
Pioneer Home.*