

Washington County Historical Society
Board Meeting Minutes for
September 3, 2008

The September meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Connie ~~Blake~~ Child?

Those in attendance were Joyce Whittaker, Jeannette Bates, Bob Olsen, L. Karen Platt, Lyman D. Platt, LoAnne Barnes, George Cannon, Marie Hansen, Lori Rose, Bill and Emma Fife, Tricia Nelson, Connie Blake Child, Lynne Johnston.

Lynne Johnston reported that she did not have the minutes from Tricia Nelson for the May 2008 meeting. She would call and get those minutes. (However, Tricia Nelson did hand the May minutes to Lynne at the end of the meeting. Lynne will type the minutes and hand them out at the October 1, 2008 meeting.)

Jeanne Bates passed out to everyone a copy of the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as it was written. One check was written for Joyce Whittaker to pay for the engraving on a plaque - which designates "Lifetime Members" in WCHS. The WCHS balance at SunFirst Bank is \$6,680.14. There is also a Certificate of Deposit at SunFirst Bank in the amount of \$10,795.17 and a Certificate of Deposit at Village Bank in the amount of \$5,014.87.

Jeanne Bates also told about the Post Office Box for WCHS, which had been closed - she did not get a notice that a renewal needed to be paid for. Jeanne did pay for the renewal and can keep the same box number. She changed the renewal date to March of 2009. Connie asked for a key to the mailbox.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Website - George Cannon - George said there wasn't much happening over the summer. He had listed a few links to other websites. He would like the WCHS to have a link on the Washington County and St. George Websites. Joyce and others at the meeting thanked George and are grateful for all the time he puts into the WCHS Website.

Fort Harmony - Karen/Lyman Platt - Karen explained what the "Fort Harmony Historical Society" has been doing. Please see the attached information about their committee. Fort Harmony is registered as Historic Site # 59 by the Utah Pioneer Trek and Landscape Association. They have done all the legal work necessary to proceed with their restoration plans. They have contacted BYU and SUU to do some archaeological work - may take about five years and \$500,000 to accomplish. They have a "Mission Statement", a website, and a power point presentation. They also have flyers and a DVD done - to publicize the "Old Fort".

LaVerkin - Bob Olsen - The old Church in LaVerkin had a leak in the roof. The approximate cost to keep the roof from leaking is around \$3,000.00 per year. Those who are in "charge" are wondering if they should repair the roof or tear the building down. There is an article in the Spectrum on the bottom of the first page about the Church.

Ivins - Emma/Bill Fife - Our thanks to Emma for her notes on the "Happenings in Ivins." Their 24th of July celebration was called the "July Fun Run" - (5.3579 mile loop through Kayenta and back to the Park for refreshments. Ivins "Goodwill Ambassador" - Frank McDonald was the Grand Marshall for the parade. Ivins City Hiking Club will hold a hike every Saturday through June. They are also planning a trip to Disneyland and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon for those interested. Ivins Heritage Days Celebration will be held from September 26th through October 1, 2008. This year they are planning to include the "Ivins Heritage Art Festival." They will have a Youth Art Display and also a children's area. There will be entertainment throughout the day on the 27th. Tony Bodell will be conducting the Ivins Community Choir and they will have storytelling by some of the local residents. They would like to honor some of the first residents of Ivins. A history of Sarah (George) Marie Mackley is being written up. There will be a Silent Auction.

Grafton - The Sons of Utah Pioneers wrote a wonderful book on the early pioneers of Grafton, for the Grafton Heritage Foundation.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Joyce Whittaker wrote an article about the two Grants which the WCHS awarded this past year - Hurricane (\$1000) to be used for their Museum and Springdale (\$500) for the restoration of their old Church. She also included pictures. She submitted the article to The Spectrum in St. George and a copy to Bob Olsen to give to Phyllis Lawton for their Hurricane newspaper.

Memberships
Our President, Connie, wanted to talk to all of us that were present, about our "General Meetings". Joyce Whittaker mentioned that it is embarrassing to arrange for a speaker to come talk at our monthly lecture meeting and have only three or four guests plus a few Board members show up. She and others have tried to publicize the meetings in the local newspapers, but still not many come out.

Connie suggested a few different ideas. One of those ideas was to visit the towns that belong to WCHS. We could ask the representative on our Board to visit their town, to arrange a date, time and then take us on a tour of the historical buildings, etc. in their town. Once George Cannon knew the town, date, time and the name/phone number of the representative - he could post the information on our Website. Another suggestion - the college students at Dixie College in the "Film Class/Movie Making Class" could also

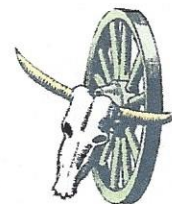
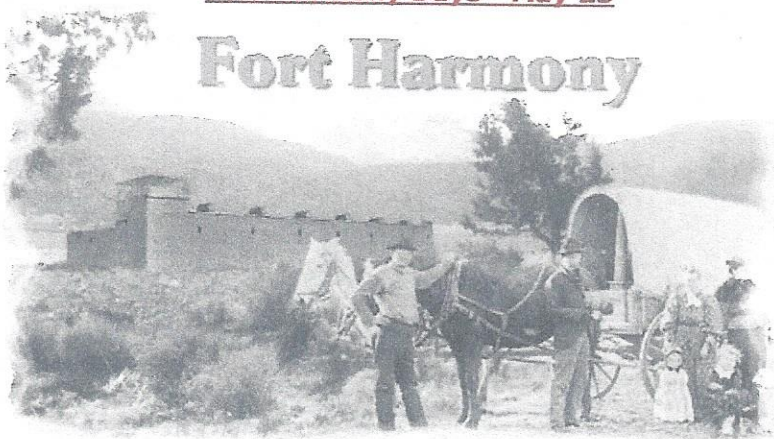
Welcome to the
Fort Harmony
Web Site

This is your information
center
for the restoration project
now
being undertaken in
Southern Utah

Sponsored by the
Fort Harmony Historical Society

Fort Harmony Days - May 23

Fort Harmony



Registered as Historic
Site #59 by the
Utah Pioneer Trails
and Landmark Association



Fort Harmony
Historical Society



The History



The Pioneers



The Location



The Restoration



The Future



The Artifacts

Historical Sites of
the
New
Harmony
Valley



Coming Events

DVDs
Now Available
on
"Ancient
Navigation in
Western
America"

by
Al Matheson

A Talk Given
on April 24

[Details Here](#)

The lectures
of 2007
are now
available on
DVD

*The Civil War and
the Utah Territory*
By Al Cooper

Preparedness
By Al Cooper

The Spanish Trail
By Al Matheson

Home Schooling
By Anne Smith

Ancient Navigation
By Al Matheson

**FORT
HARMONY
DAYS
CELEBRATION**

[See Photos](#)

Here in the New Harmony Valley lies the remains of one of the few protective outposts built by our courageous pioneers. The concept and plans originated with Brigham Young in 1854; the actual construction project was supervised by John D. Lee. Fort Harmony took years of volunteer labor to complete and played an historic role in the settlement of Southern Utah. Over the course of eight years, this adobe-type structure provided shelter and protection for over 300 frontier settlers.

Why was it abandoned so early, and what were the tragic events that unfolded during this critical time in Utah history? We welcome you to explore these pages and share the experiences faced by these real pioneers as they endured the hardships of remote frontier life.

The Original Old Fort Harmony site has been Located !

Located on the south end of Harmony Valley there is a beautiful bluff that looks over Ash Creek Reservoir and fertile farm land. This site closely matches the descriptions from recorded history.

[Read more here](#)

Fort Harmony and Mountain Meadows

Recently there has been some news about the Mountain Meadows and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Salt Lake Tribune, 3/29/08). When news breaks about the Mountain Meadows, often people make an association between the Mountain Meadows and Fort Harmony and the John D. Lee statue. FHHS is asking people to not make that association because there lies in the remains of Fort Harmony, fragile historical information for several hundred people that lived or visited the Fort and it is the goal of the FHHS to retrieve and document this history of ALL the people. We do not want the pioneer's historical information to become mixed up with Mountain Meadows controversial issues.

LECTURE SERIES

For those who are interested in learning more about Southern Utah's past history, we invite you to attend our lecture series at the New Harmony Library. These are usually scheduled on the last Thursday of each month. The lectures start at 7:00 p.m., and are open to the general public at no cost. When the speaker permits, we do videotape the lectures and have these available for the public at the New Harmony Library or you can purchase your own copy at our [Media Store](#).

Fort Harmony in the news: *Deseret Morning News*, Tuesday May 1, 2007

The restoration project of Fort Harmony may include the bronze statue of John D. Lee. This unique and beautiful bronze statue lost it's home at the Washington Government offices. It has recently been purchased by the John D. Lee Family for future placement at the Fort. [Read the whole story here.](#)

About our Valley

The historically correct term for our valley is Harmony Valley. Harmony Valley is about 12 miles long by 5 miles wide basically from mile marker #36 to #48 at the Kannara overpass of I-15. The Native Americans named the valley "Somato" or "the cove".

New Harmony is a town, about 2 miles square. It is very small compared to the entire valley which is about 60 miles square. It is also the mailing address of everyone in the valley. Kolob Ranches, The Ridges, Harmony Farms, Harmony Heights 1 & 2 are located in Harmony Valley, not New Harmony. As the valley develops these distinctions will become more important.



The Fort Harmony Historical Society in Action. A recent effort was undertaken by the Society members in locating historical sites within the Harmony Valley. This group was led by Lyman and Karen Platt and the purpose was to find and to

BYU Archaeological Team at the Fort. A team of BYU archeologists under the direction of Rich Talbot began initial digging at Fort Harmony on October 15th 2007. Funds for this excavation only covered a week's worth of work for the four member crew; however, their effort - and the effort of numerous volunteers uncovered a surprising amount of artifacts and information. See the results of their efforts [here](#).

NEWS FLASH !

The question of the John D. Lee barn has now been answered.. Yes ! The remains have been located on a section of land next to Fort Harmony.



The
New Harmony
Pageant

["I See Our Zion"](#)

A True
Pioneer Story
at the Fort

Visit our
Media Store
[Here](#)

The
"Blue Willow"
Mystery
is it solved?

Be a part of the Fort
Harmony research
team and help us
find and research
those pioneers who
once lived in the
Fort.

[Click Here](#)
for the
Pioneer List

Visit the
New Harmony
[Heritage Page](#)

A new list
of missionaries
who had land
plots at the fort

[Celebration](#)