

SCHOOLS

NEW HARMONY, UTAH



*Written
By
Gerald W. Prince
May 2008*

PREFACE

I realized as I started writing a brief account of schools in New Harmony that as others write their own account they will write the same history but from a different perspective according to their experiences, memory and other information. This is the way that it should be.

My purpose in writing is that a written record may be preserved containing some of the things that I know and remember from my experiences being a student of our school from the first through the eighth grade.

I alone take responsibility for what I have written. I am not writing to please others but hope that anyone who happens to read this record may better understand and appreciate what a blessing it was to attend school in New Harmony.

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When people from Old Fort Harmony settled in what became New Harmony in 1861 and 1862, school was first held in what John D. Lee called his "Great Hall." It was located just west of New Harmony. In 1863 a one room log school was built on the lower street of New Harmony (100 South.) Later this log school was torn down and the materials were used to build another school. It was south of where the one room church was built 1875. After the church was built, school was held there until the building could no longer accommodate both church and school activities.

Later another school was built. It was red brick covered by yellow stucco.* Marion F. Prince (born 1906) attended this school and had a class photograph taken in 1914. The school would have been many years old at that time. It was built in the east part of town where the Lyle Prince home now stands (11 South 145 East.) When this building was condemned, a one room frame school was built across the street to the north of where the old one was located. This new school was just east of where the fire station now stands. It had about an acre of land and it faced south to the main road into town. There was never any lawn on the property, only native grasses and weeds--and, puncture burrs! There was a tall flagpole in front of the building, close to the fence and just east of the entrance into the property.

Around 1920 a curtain was added to divide the room with grades 1-4 in the north portion and grades 5-8 in the south. Another large class room was added to the west side of the building around 1923-1924. After the addition, the school continued to teach grades 1-8. Grades 1-4 were now located in the west classroom (sometimes referred to as the "little" room) and grades 5-8 in the east (the "big" room.) This was the two-room school building that I attended.

In the northwest area of the property was located a softball field. Adjacent to, and on the west of the school lot, was the property of Edmund Carbine & Emily Jane Adair Grant. Their large barn and corral were on the property line in the northeast corner. During softball games students, and at times adults, would sit on the corral fence and the stable part of the barn to rest or watch the games.

In the southwest corner of the school yard were located four swings, a teeter totter and a basketball standard. Between the swings and the school building was an open area used to play various games during recess in good weather. The girls played games such as jacks, hopscotch and jump rope. The boys played marbles, football and wrestling. In the winter when the snow was rather deep, we played fox and geese or made forts and had snowball fights.

Many hours were also spent by students playing dodge ball on the west entrance porch. Boys and girls played together. The one with the ball would stand a little south of the porch to throw the ball. Other games commonly played were Red Rover and Anti-I-Over. Anti-I-Over was played with teams. It involved throwing a ball over the top of the building, one team on the south and one on the north. The team that threw the ball would call out "Anti, Anti-I Over." The opposing team would try to catch the ball before it touched the ground. If they caught the ball they would run around to the other side and try to tag the other team who would be running to the opposite side to safety. If you were caught, you joined the other team. This went on until one side was completely eliminated.

Inside the building were the two large classrooms, one on the east and one on the west side. A door connected the two classrooms on the dividing wall, on the north. The main entrance to the building was in the front on the south. There were double doors with concrete steps leading up to them. This entrance led into a hallway where the drinking fountain was located. A small room directly north of this hall was where both the classroom supplies and janitorial supplies were kept. Also, a rope to ring the bell which was on the top of the building was hanging down into this room. To the left and right of the storage room were two halls. Each led into the room for the upper grades, which had two entrances. The boy's restroom was entered from the east hall and the girl's from the west hall. Both of these halls had coat racks and areas for overshoes.

On the southwest corner of the building was a covered porch with a door on the east side leading into a small room. There were also coat racks here with a door on the northeast leading into the classroom for the lower grades. In this area was a door that led into the hall where the girl's restroom was located. There were windows on the front of the building and in the east hallway. All of the floors in the building were wood with no floor coverings. Some kind of oil was used on the floors and they were very hard to sweep clean with a broom.

In the west classroom for grades 1-4, the teacher's desk was at the north wall with four rows of desks and small chairs for a reading circle in the south end of the room. A large blackboard was on the east wall with the alphabet in large letters displayed above it. On the north wall were bookcases on either side of the teacher's desk which contained the students' supplies. The west wall had a number of large tall windows which were up high enough that a student could not look out of them into the school yard while seated.

The teacher's desk in the east classroom for grades 5-8 was on the south side facing north with four rows of desks in front of it. Against the north wall were book cases for books and supplies. The blackboard was on the west wall with the alphabet in large cursive letters displayed in a row above it. The east wall had a number of large windows the same as those in the other classroom.

On the north side of the building was an attached room for the furnace and coal. A wood pile and the extra coal were stored outside, directly north of the furnace room.

The school bell was rung 15 minutes before school was to start and at starting time. It rang at recess times and again to let students know when recess was over. It was rung at noon and before time for school to start after lunch and then again when school started. The school day ended with the bell being rung again.

For those of us who lived on the northwest part of town school was five long country block away. This meant that at lunch time we had to hurry to get home, eat, and return back to school within an hour. On occasions, in very bad weather with deep snow, those who lived the farthest from the school were allowed to bring a lunch. We could do this with the stipulation that no one was to be let into the building until the teacher came back and opened the door. This did not always make those who were locked out of the building too happy.

Special student activities were sometimes held for all the students and other times they were held separately. Fieldtrips were always a special event. These fieldtrips would be to various parts of the town and valley. My first visit to the Old Pine Tree was on a field trip with the lower grades. My Aunt Florence Prince was our teacher. Also, my first trip to gather snow flowers on Lawson Hill was about

that same time. At times we would have an outing up to Uncle Henry Alexander 'Alex' Pace's pond for a nature hike. There were hikes in the spring to Reed Prince's pasture northwest of town to gather watercress. Other trips would take us up to Main Canyon at the foot of Pine Valley Mountain and down to Sawyer's Spring south of town. On the trips to Sawyer's Spring we went on a hay wagon with a large rack. I remember Darce and Merl Prince driving the team of horses on one of these trips.

On one trip the school went to Page Ranch for an outing and then that night to Cedar City to attend the Disney movie, *Dumbo, The Flying Elephant*. We traveled in a truck with tall racks on the back. When we came out of the movies to go home the truck driver had locked the keys in the truck. I don't remember who he got to get the door open but I do remember that it took some time. Our parents had become rather concerned as we were so late arriving home. We were all very cold from the ride home in the open air.

The biggest school fieldtrip I was involved in was while in the seventh grade. Our teacher, Mr. Orton, took the students grade 5-8 up to the Kolob Cliffs. We hiked around one of the cliffs and stopped at a cabin where we stayed overnight. Girls slept in the cabin and the boys out under the trees. I do not remember who packed our things into the cabin or got us to Kolob or what other adults may have been with us.

There was never a piano in our school while I attended. School programs for the most part were held in the one room church a block away where we could use their piano and have a curtain to define a stage area. These programs were held at Christmas, at the end of the school year and at various others times.

While attending school there were very few resource books or other materials for the students. I was in the big room when we received a set of encyclopedias. I remember the covers were dark blue. This was a red-letter day for the students. Mr. Moody, the Washington County School Superintendent, and Miss Tillie Windsor, who worked for the school district, would come occasionally to visit and bring supplies.

I do not remember who took care of the furnace. I do know that at times the students would sweep the building and do the cleanup. What little money was made from this was used for school activities or to purchase things for the school.

During my eight years attending school in New Harmony, I had three teachers. My father's youngest sister, Florence Prince, taught me my first four years. During those same years, Glenn Graff taught grades 5-8 and was the school principal. Rulon Orton from Dixie taught me in the fifth, seventh and eight grades

and was school principal. Neola Zahner, also from Dixie, taught the upper grades during my year as a sixth grader. Viola Kelsey was the principal that year. When Mr. Orton returned the next year he was reinstated as principal.

I think that the teachers for the first four grades (while I was in the upper grades) were Roma Bentley from Parowan for one year. Then Viola Woodbury Kelsey, who was originally from St. George, taught for the next three years. Viola Kelsey was married to Edwin Verl Kelsey, a native of New Harmony.

In April, 1957, a fire started in the furnace room and the building burned to the ground. A student, Paul F. Prince, was the first to see the flames and sound the alarm. The Cedar City Fire Department came but the fire had a good start, the school was a wood structure, and the fire truck was far away. The building was very quickly consumed. The students finished the school year in the New Harmony church building and were bused to Cedar City in the years following.

It was sad for the town to loose the school, but it was inevitable that the students would have to soon be bused to another school anyway. The number of students did not justify having a school in New Harmony. New Harmony is located in Washington County but the town's people did not like the idea of students having to go over the Black Ridge in bad weather to attend school in Hurricane. Hurricane was also further away than Cedar City. Washington County was able to make a deal with Iron County to take New Harmony's students. From then on New Harmony's school students have been bussed to Cedar City.



*Sheldon B. Grant, in his book (see 2 below) refers to this as a “concrete” school.

1. Written from memory and information given me by my father Marion F. Prince and other town members.
2. Summary of New Harmony's schools can be found in *The Harmony Valley And New Harmony, Utah*; compiled by Sheldon B. Grant with Kay Daun Pace Edwards; New Harmony, Utah. October 1999 pg. 59-60.
3. Photo of Old Two-Room School courtesy Dorothy Prince Torgensen.
4. Photo of school burning down in 1957 courtesy Deanna Prince Groke.
5. Photo of 1875 one room LDS church courtesy Bp. Marion Francis Prince.
6. Edited by Marilyn S. Prince

NEW HARMONY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SONG



PURPLE & WHITE

When the rising sun comes o'er the mountain
It is greeted by us all,
Safely nestled in a fertile valley
That is home to great and small.
First to greet it is an old frame building
That has stood the test of time.
Within it's walls we learned to do
Under this flag we'll climb.

The white for purity, the purple stands for loyalty,
They make a flag for us
They tell the world what we will be.
Our banner bright, its loveliness,
To you we're loyal you and I.
Then let our voices cheer while praising,
Purple and white, wave high.

Ever ready for the tasks that lie before us
In our work or play.
Tho' we're few number there'll be more of us
To make a greater day,
For we have the climate and attractions
Un-surpassed in any land.
New Harmony will yet be great,
Under this flag so grand.

Note;

#1. Words and music by K. E. Fordham

#2. Taken from a copy in possession of Ted Kelsey of New Harmony, Utah.

#3. School flag designed by Rolaine G. King and Gerald W. Prince. 2015

Gerald W. Prince
Feb. 27, 2001

NEW HARMONY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SONG

PURPLE & WHITE



NEW HARMONY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SONG

PURPLE & WHITE

When the rising sun comes o'er the mountain
It is greeted by us all,
Safely nestled in a fertile valley
That is home to great and small.
First to greet it is an old frame building
That has stood the test of time.
Within it's walls we learned to do
Under this flag we'll climb.

The white for purity, the purple stands for loyalty,
They make a flag for us
They tell the world what we will be.
Our banner bright, its loveliness,
To you we're loyal you and I.
Then let our voices cheer while praising,
Purple and white, wave high.

Ever ready for the tasks that lie before us
In our work or play,
Tho' we're few number there'll be more of us
To make a greater day,
For we have the climate and attractions
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(7)

School Song
Remembered by Few

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#3. School flag designed by Rolaine G. King and Gerald W. Prince. 2015

#4. School Song art work by Rolaine Grant King. 2016



#1. Old Concrete School & Students



#2. Grades One --- Four: Two Room School



#3. Florence Prince & Glen Graff Grades 1 --- 8



#4. Eva B. Schmutz & Viola W. Kelsey



#5. School Fieldtrip



Two Room School

PHOTO INDEX

1. New Harmony, Utah School Students 1914.

Teacher La Verna Taylor

Photo taken with students standing by the Old Red Brick school building which was covered with yellow stucco. Building was located where the Lyle B. & Venice W. Prince home is located, 11 South 149 East.

Back Row

Golda Maude Prince, Rulon Taylor, James "Jim" Irving Prince, Clark Pace, LaVerna Taylor "Englestead" Teacher, George Schmutz.

2nd Row

Verbal Gholson, Verne Brown, Max A. Pace, William "Bill" Harvey Prince, Lester Taylor, Roland Duffin, Alvin Kelsey, Orren Taylor, Josephine Kelsey.

3rd Row

Juanita Davis, Ruth & Mary Gholson, Fern Davis, Merl Pace, Ethel Schmutz, Pearl Pace, Velva Prince, Estelle Hammond, Erma Condie.

Front Row

Claude Taylor, Clifford Gholson, Leland Taylor, James Reed Prince, Marion Francis Prince, Reed Whipple, Pratt Pace Prince.

2. New Harmony, Utah School Grades 1-4 1937

Teacher Florence Prince

Photo courtesy Florence Prince Quist

Back Row

?, Laura Dawn Woolsey, Leah Kelsey, Ruth Joy Walton, Eva Lou Schmutz, Thelma & Lucile Englestead.

2nd Row

Betty Marie Walton, Gordon H. Pace, Pearl Schmutz, Barbara Jean Pace, Olga Taylor, Florence Prince Teacher.

3rd Row

David Woolsey, Marilyn Mathis, Maureen Prince, Rodney Grant, Boyd Ashby Pace.

3. New Harmony, Utah School Grades 1-8 1937

Teachers: Florence Prince grades 1-4; Glen Graff grades 5-8

Back Row

Florence Prince, Glenn Graff.

2nd Row

Daniel "Dan" & Joseph "Joe" Jessup, George Dallas Grant, Eldon "Bill" Schmutz, Mona Taylor, Thelma and Lucile Englestead, Ruth Joy Walton, Barbara Jean Pace, Laura Dawn Woolsey.

3rd Row

Delilah Gillespie, Gwen Petty, Glenna Graff, Winona & Bea Prince, Olga Taylor, Pearl Schmutz, Maureen Prince, Betty Marie Walton, Marilyn Mathis, Delora Prince, Carolyn Pace.

4th Row

Gordon H. Pace, David Woolsey, Don Leo Heaton, Gerald W. Prince, Beverly J.

Woolsey, Glen Petty, Russell Graff, Rodney Grant, Boyd Ashby Pace,

Front Row

James Dayle "Jimmy" Neilson, William "Billy" Jessup, Victor A. Dostalek, Bryce Taylor, Jerrold D. Pearce, Robert Pace.

4. New Harmony, Utah School Grades 1-8 1951

Teachers Viola Woodbury Kelsey grades 5-8; Eva Buys Schmutz grades 1-4

Back Row

Rolaine Grant, Jean Pace, Laura & Ronald Prince, Peggy Jorgenson, James "Jim" Teasdale.

Center Row

Eva Buys Schmutz Teacher, Lana Jean Prince, Joan Pace, Claudine Prince, Joycelyn Taylor, Darlene Jorgenson, Viola Woodbury Kelsey Teacher.

Front Row

Vickie Huntsman, Verlene Kelsey, Paul F. Mervin W.& Annette Prince, Carol Petty, David Hall, Jerrold D, Pearce.

5. New Harmony, Utah School Students

Students on hay wagon in front of old 1875 one room LDS Church getting ready to go on a fieldtrip. Darce M. Prince is wagon driver & Merl Prince is next to him in the black hat. Circa 1938
In the background can be seen the many locust trees on the church property.

Standing

?, Victor A. Dostalek, Boyd A. Pace, Betty Marie Walton, ?, Thelma & Lucile Englestead, ?, Laura Dawn Woolsey, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, Merl Prince, ?, Darce M. Prince.

Front

?, ?, ?, Dennis Huntsman, Gerald W. Prince, Pearl Schmutz, Maureen Prince, Marilyn Mathis, Olga Taylor, Eva Lou Schmutz, Darrell Prince.

6. New Harmony, Utah Two Room School Building
Which Burned Down In the Spring of 1957.