Historic New Harmony

Official Guide

By
Mrs Nora C. Fretageot Chadwick
and
W. P. Mangrum

Centennial Edition
1914

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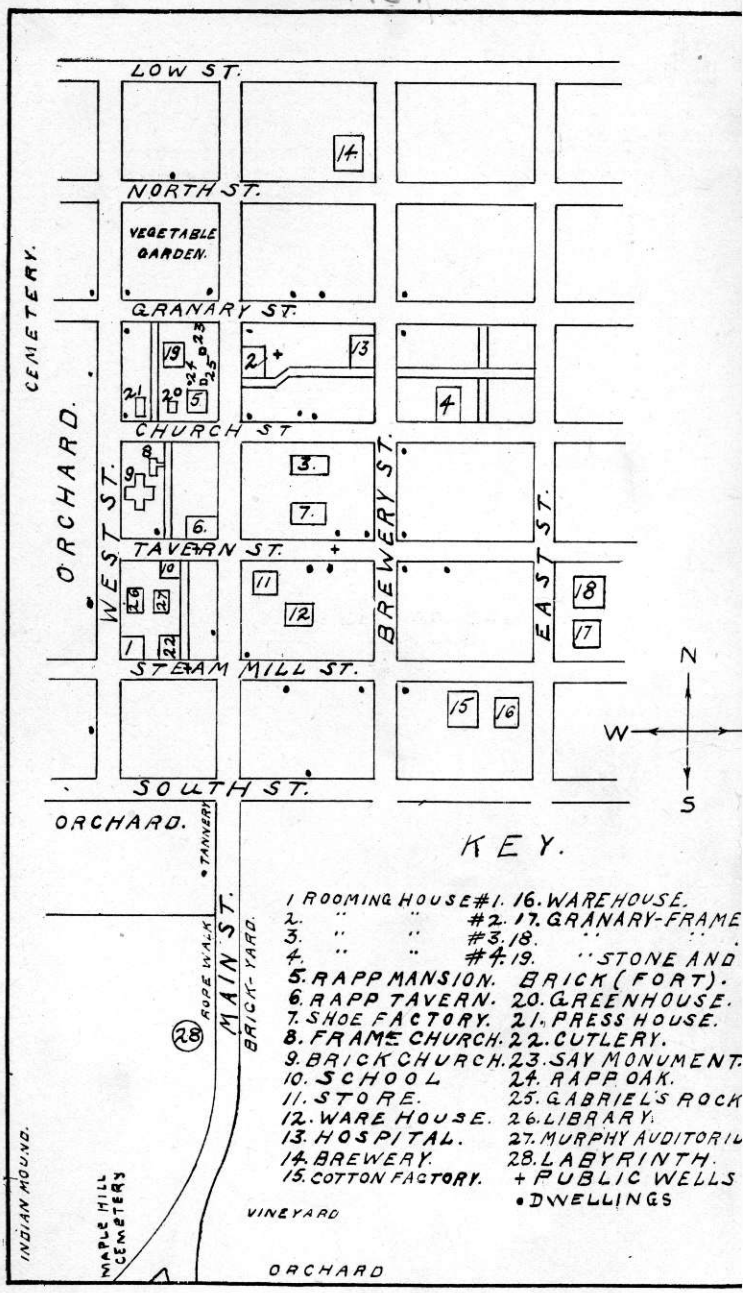

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BY
NORA C. FRETAGEOT AND W. V. MANGRUM

with Compliments of
Nora C. Fretageot
&
W. V. Mangrum

Dedicated to Former
Librarians of the Workingmen's
Institute

Rowland Hunter
Charles Hallett White
A. M. McDonald
John Christopher Wheatcroft
William Dransfield
John Gullett
James Penn Bennett
Isabel Wheatcroft Miller
Maud Miller Fauntleroy
Arthur Dransfield

"Again a day is past, and a step
made nearer our end.
Our time runs away and the joys
of Heaven are our reward."

—Rappite Watchman's Cry.

Some Historic Data

1806—First survey of land near New Harmony, by Ziba Foote.

1807—John Gresham, probably first white man to take up land near New Harmony. Southwest.

1809—Old Salt Trail passed east of this site and crossed the Wabash River just below.

1810—Indians, bear, beaver, elk and wolves here.
Men and women wear dresses of skin and leather.
First flat boat built at river.

1811—Same boat loaded with pork and corn goes to New Orleans.
Battle of Tippecanoe.

1812—First grist mill built at Cut-off. John Warrick, builder. (Tradition).

1814—RAPPITES begin to build the town of Harmonie, Indiana.

POSEY COUNTY organized.

1815—Coming of the Rappite families.

1816—Indiana made a state.

1817—First settlement made in Edwards County, Illinois, at Albion by George Flower and Morris Birkbeck.

1818—Palmy days of the Rappites.
Destroy the book containing the record of money deposited by individual members.

1818–1824—Many homes and public buildings completed.

1824—John Schnee made member of the State Legislature.

ARRIVAL of ROBERT OWEN.

1825—Mr. Owen buys the town and 20,000 acres of land, also stock, machinery and some manufactured goods.

MAY 1st, Mr. Owen institutes his Preliminary Society.

Names the town NEW HARMONY.

Oct. 1, New Harmony Gazette published, first newspaper in Posey County.

1826—BOAT LOAD OF KNOWLEDGE arrives.

First Kindergarten in the United States at New Harmony.

First Free School in the United States at New Harmony.

First Co-educational School in the United States at New Harmony.

First industrial school as part of free school at New Harmony.

Government metereological reports made in New Harmony.

Rain gauge fixed here, still in use.

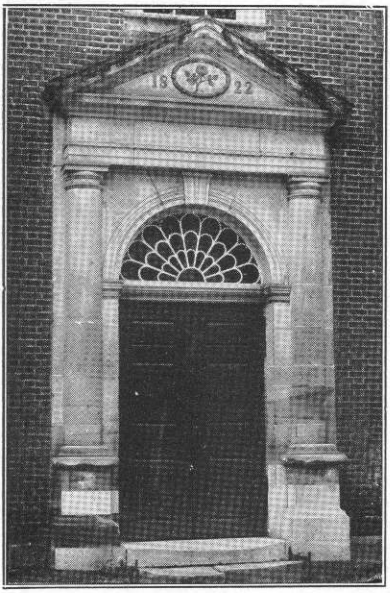
First prohibition of liquor by administration.

Many people drawn by the communistic idea.

1827—New Harmony Post Office ranks second in the state.

End of the Owen community.

Historic New Harmony.



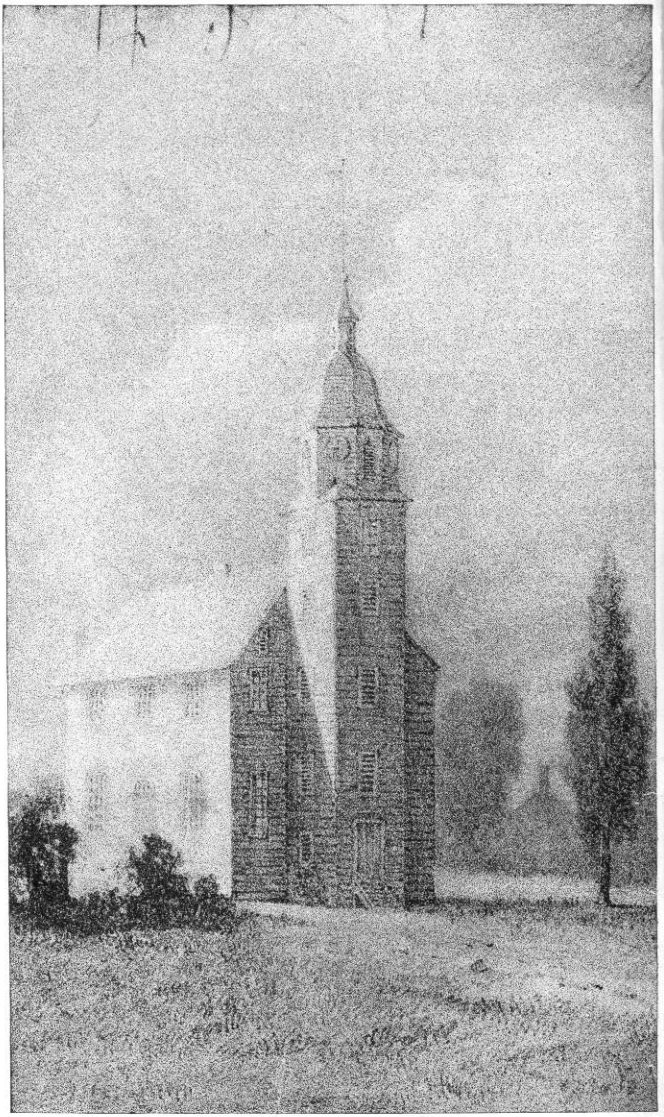
RAPPITE CHURCH DOORWAY, 1822

In 1814, George Rapp and one hundred of his followers, exploring the West in search of a milder climate, a better agricultural country and one nearer a water highway, found a suitable place on the Wabash River about fifty miles from its mouth.

It was June. The lovely valley, the navigable river and the luxuriant vegetation were alluring. They spent the first night under an oak tree, then soon began the erection of numerous log houses that were to serve as temporary abiding places for their coming people.

Thus was Harmonie, Indiana, founded by the Harmony Society, a body of Wurtemburg peasants, led by Father Rapp from their native land into free America in 1803. They lived in Harmonie, Pennsylvania for ten years, then began the search for a more agreeable place. The whole community arrived on the Wabash in the spring of 1815, and laid the foundation of a very substantial town. They manufactured their own material, making brick, mortar, etc.; quarrying rock from the hills for walls and foundations; bringing mussel shells from the river to burn into lime, while the forest furnished plenty of good lumber.

Believing in the second coming of Christ, and practicing celibacy in order that they might be better prepared for this event, the society barely survived the century, but prospered materially during those years. New Harmony has cherished the memory of her founders and preserved many of their houses. A brief account of some of their handiwork follows.



FRAME CHURCH AT HARMONIE, INDIANA, 1816
REPRODUCED FROM THWAITES' EARLY WESTERN TRAVELS
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First Church

The original Rappite Church was a two-story frame, built in 1816, among the earliest of the large buildings. It stood in the same lot with the brick church built later on the west.

It was 75 feet long, 50 feet wide and 30 feet high. On the east end was a belfry, 20 by 20 feet, with large slatted windows on each side. In it were two bells. Above the belfry was a clock room, hexagonal in shape, with a clock on the northeast face about eight feet in diameter, and a smaller one on the southeast. Within was a clock gearing and the hours were struck on the large bell, the quarters on the small one. They could be heard for seven miles and were the finest in the state at that time. Above the clock was a steeple that was afterwards shattered by lightning. Mr. Maclure's School of Industry used this building during the Owen Community time and later. He called it the Mechanic's Atheneum, it was also called the Steeple House.

In 1836 this church was taken down by order of Alexander Maclure.

After providing a church, the Rappites began the building of several large rooming houses. These they numbered, 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. They were always called by these names.

No. 1, built in 1817, has long since fallen into decay and been removed. It stood in the present Library lot on the corner of Steam-mill and West Streets. The Owen Community used it for a rooming house also, the Owen family themselves making their home in it for a time. After these days it was used for amateur theatricals, concerts, supper balls and other entertainments. A new No. 1 was built by the Owen Community, adjacent to this, which was used in 1847 for a silk factory, where the worms were reared and the fabric woven into the finished article. Here also were Theatre and Ball Room. The upper story was used for an Odd-Fellows' Hall from 1852 until 1863, when it was taken down.

ROOMING HOUSE No. 2

Fretagent Building

No. 2 is the best preserved of the Rapp houses in the original form. It was built in 1822. Situated on the east side of Main Street, between Church and Granery Sts., it is a three-story building of brick, 40x70 feet, with a mannard roof originally covered with shingles. The third story is formed by the roof. The early entrance was on the alley, into a hall extending north and south with rooms on both sides in each story.

The Rappites used it for a rooming house. In 1826 the boarding school of Joseph Neef and Mme. Fretageot was housed in it. In 1828 many of the interesting people of that time boarded here, and one room was the home of the Society for Mutual Instruction. They lighted the apartment with gas manufactured by themselves from refuse fat and lard.

Later this building was used as a tavern where Judge Wattles served as host, also George Flower, the disappointed founder of the Illinois Settlement, for whom it was called the Flower House, and Samuel Arthur.

For many years since then it has been a store, first used in 1830 by Mme. Fretageot for the school store, then by James Sampson and her son—in all by four generations of Fretageots, hence its present name.

Under one of the stairways is an inscription in chalk written by a departing Rapp, which translated reads, "In the twenty-fourth of May, 1824, we have departed, Lord, with Thy great help and goodness, in body and soul protect us."

On the outer south wall is a sun dial. A large chimney in it is of interesting unusual size, and in the yard is the only remaining open Dutch well of the town.

ROOMING HOUSE No. 3.

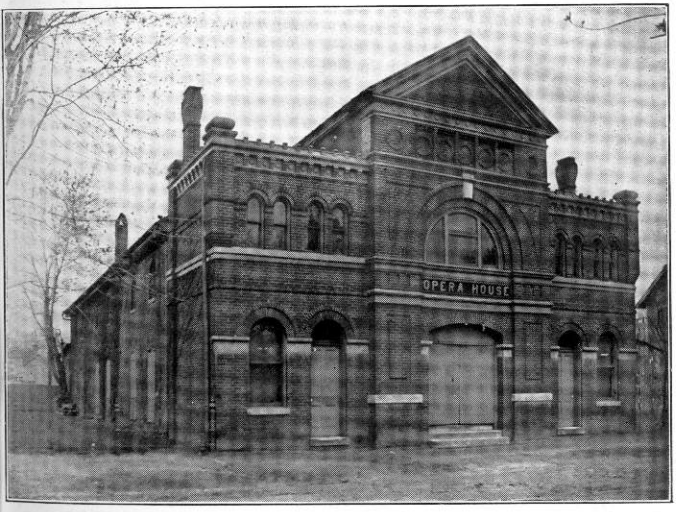
THE TAVERN

This house was built in 1823, (date carved above the door) and is about the same size as all the larger buildings. It is situated on the south side of Church Street between Main and Brewery, with the entrance on Church Street about ten feet off the line of the street. During the Owen Community days it was converted into a hotel and called the Tavern. Its name has changed frequently during its long career, Todd's Tavern was one name, the Mansion House, O'Neal House, Viets House, etc. Finally in 1893 it was renamed The Tavern. In 1880 fire destroyed the third story when it was rebuilt, changing the roof to

a flat one, with full third story rooms. A front porch was added. This tavern has been a home-like hostelry and in it some prominent citizens have resided. Robert Owen chose to make the Tavern his home while here. Dr. and Mrs. Murphy, late benefactors of the town, lived there many years, and died there in 1900.

Imagination, aided by narrations in the old New Harmony Gazette, and the oft repeated tales of our ancestors, can picture many important events centered about this historic house and its interesting guests.

The Rapp Tavern, for which Tavern Street was named, was on the northwest corner of Main and Tavern Street. Above the front door was written, "House of private entertainment." Sometimes it was called No. 6, later the White House and the Yellow Tavern. To the present generation the place was known as the Monitor Corner. It burned August 16, 1908.



ROOMING HOUSE No. 4---UNION HALL---OPERA HOUSE

No. 4 rooming house was a two-story brick building, as were the others, and of the same dimensions. It was built on the north side of Church Street, between Granery and East Sts. In it the single men of both the Rapp and Owen Communities had their rooms. Later it became a tenement house in bad repair, sometimes having sixteen families in its sixteen rooms. Mr. Felch, Sr., at one time used one room for a school, Capt. Humphrey and Mr. Goble, in 1845, kept stores in it. In 1856 the building was bought by the local Thespian Society, who threw it, from first floor to attic, into one room, laid a new

floor of yellow pine, brought from New Orleans, the nearest good market—a fine floor for dancing—and erected a stage in the north end 22 by 26 feet and 15 feet high. The scenery was painted by Mr. Peter Duclos, who came to New Harmony when a child with his aunt, Mme. Fretageot, in 1826, and who helped decorate the St. Charles Theatre in New Orleans. Mr. George Warren, son of Josiah Warren, assisted him.

Movable seats were constructed, which, when not in use, could be stored under the stage. A gallery in the south end seated 200 people, the main floor 600 or 700. The first performance was given in June, 1857. At that time this was the second largest theatre in Indiana. They called it "Union Hall" as a compromise between Theatre and Ball Room which they had hitherto kept separate.

Mr. Eugene S. Thrall bought it later, built on a modern front and otherwise improved it, since which it has been the Opera House, until 1913, when the stage was dismantled, and the place used as a garage.

HOME OF MRS. JOHN CORBIN
RAPP --- MACLURE --- OWEN HOME

The Germans built, about 1821, a two-story brick residence for their leader, Father Rapp. This "Rapp Mansion" as it was called, was on the northwest corner of Church and Main Sts., about thirty feet back from both streets. It was sixty feet square with a one-story kitchen twenty feet square on the west.

On each floor were long halls leading east and west. It was in the same block with the fort, which tradition says was connected with it by an underground passage. In the yard north of it stood the oak tree under which the first night was spent by George Rapp and his followers seeking a town site in 1814.

In the Owen days it was owned and occupied by William Maclure and his family, consisting of two

brothers and two sisters. The south side was used for a part of his school, the upper floor being the dormatory. He called it the Seminary. In the large drawing room were beautiful paintings and fine engravings besides other articles of beauty and rare workmanship. This room was open to the pupils during leisure hours, as was also his large library.

In one room the Disseminator was printed for a time, and when the house burned in 1844 many precious books from that press were destroyed with it. Alexander Maclure immediately rebuilt the house, making it one story, with large rooms and very high ceilings, adding the long porch.

In the Maclure will, this house was left to Mrs. Thomas Say, but she did not return to live in it. Dr. David Dale Owen bought it, and his heirs lived in it and owned it until 1901, when it was bought, restored and improved by Mr. John Corbin, making it perhaps the most beautiful and most spacious home in New Harmony.

FORT---GRANARY

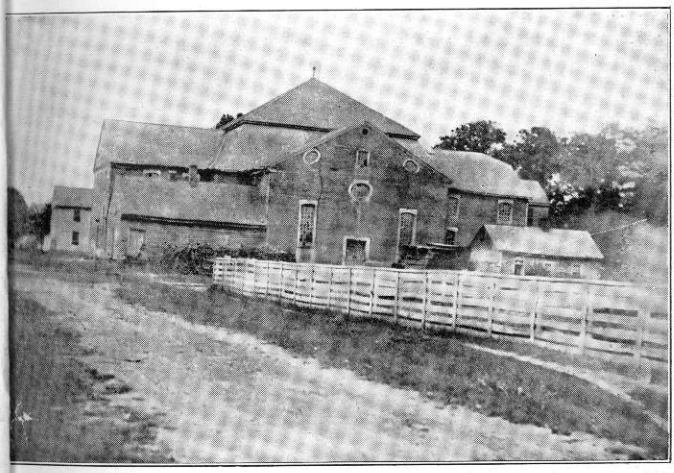
(From Painting by Mrs. George Ford.)

The Rappites built several large granaries. One of the frame ones, 50x80 feet, three stories high, was taken down in 1912, almost one hundred years old. One, most of the walls of which are built of stone taken from the old quarry down by the Cut-off River —the upper part of brick—was used as a store house for grain, but made strong as a fortress, to be used, if necessary, as a place of refuge against their lawless squatter neighbors.

It was erected in 1818 and is located a little south of Granary Street, between Main and West Sts. It is forty feet wide, seventy feet long and three stor-

ies high. It had originally five floors, three of them tile. The lower walls are four feet thick, there are six port holes on either side and two in each end. The windows are barred with iron, the doors were securely fastened by enormous locks (see Library Museum) and barred in addition. The roof was covered with large tile seven by twelve inches, with hooks on the under side to lap over the lathing. In later years the interior was destroyed by fire, it was then repaired and metal roof supplied.

It has served many purposes. From 1843 to 1856 it was the laboratory and museum of Dr. David Dale Owen, and was used for headquarters of the United States Geological Survey stationed for about twenty years in New Harmony. It was once a store, a pork packing establishment, Woolen Mills, Flouring Mill, a home for the Library while the old library building was being repaired in 1874, etc. It has had several owners. Mr. John Ribeyre re-converted it into a granary before his death in 1893, since which time it has remained as such.



BRICK CHURCH OF THE RAPPITES

This building was completed in 1822. Here Father Rapp preached twice on Sunday and often through the week. Sunday School for the Rappite children was held here.

It was a very imposing structure—so far out in the western wilds, built in the form of a Maltese Cross, the body of the building eighty feet square with four wings, each fifty by twenty-five feet. The wings were two stories in height but the centre towered away in one vast story of some twenty-eight feet. Supporting the roof and ceiling were twenty-eight Doric columns, forming arcades to each wing. These pillars were of walnut, cherry and sassafras wood six feet in circumference. Above the main entrance was carved in the rock a wreath and a rose, the date, 1822, and an inscription—Micah IV., 8; this, in the Lutheran edition of the Bible reads: "Unto thee shall come the golden rose, the first dominion." This is said to have been carved and gilded by Frederick Rapp him-

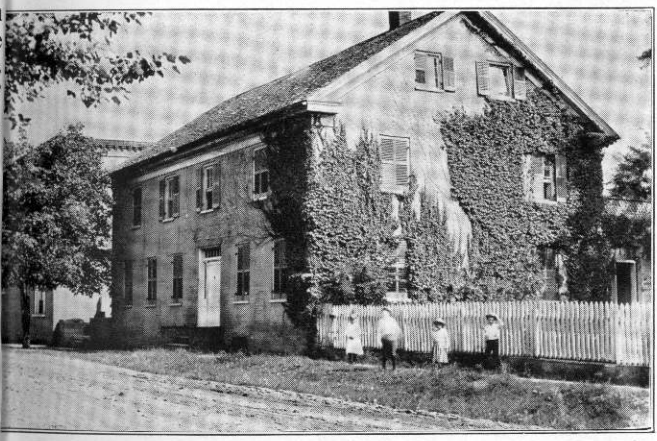
self. The north door was of cherry. This is still in use as is the stone doorway, at the west entrance to the new school building. The old fashioned hinges and large lock are in the Library Museum. On top of the church was a large dome encircled by a balcony, sometimes used for a band stand.

In 1825, the Owen Community, calling it New Harmony Hall, dedicated it to free thought and free speech, using it for different purposes. The large lower room was lighted every evening and used for deliberative assemblies, for balls and concerts. The south room was the theatre, with scenery painted by Charles Alexander Lesueur, then residing here. The upper rooms were used for music, reading, debating and other social meetings. Mr. Maclure used part of it for his school, placing in it his valuable collection of minerals, shells and other articles of scientific value, also his library. In one room was the first press room of the Disseminator, where pupils learned the art of printing and illustrating.

After the death of William Maclure, one wing was given to the Episcopal church, another to the Workingmen's Institute for their library. Later for many years the west end was used for a pork packing depot, and fell into decay. The whole was taken down in 1873, with the exception of the old walls of the library room which were incorporated into a new building erected on the same site for a school and the Library.

In 1913 this structure, including the two and one-half feet walls of the old church, left standing in 1873, were entirely removed and the present High School building was erected on the old site.

New Harmony has four comparatively new churches today. The German Evangelical, built in 1890; the Catholic, in 1899; Johnson Methodist Episcopal, in 1905–6; and a new Episcopal church, the corner stone of which was laid in 1911.



RAPPITE SCHOOL HOUSE

This house, known for many late years as the Richard Ford house, having been owned and occupied by his family since 1858, was built by the Rappites for the schoolmaster of the society. The double parlor on the east side, at that time one large room, was the school room. This was the first school in this part of the state. In one room upstairs was a small printing press having capacity for all the work of the society and was operated by the teacher, Mr. Muller. After William Owen came, he sometimes corrected the press.

On this press was printed one of the three works of the known literature of the Harmony Society, "Thoughts on the Destiny of Man." It was probably

written by George Rapp. There is a translation in th Library. It was printed in 1824, the first book on th new press. This is one of the earliest and rarest o Indiana imprints.

One year later, the New Harmony Gazette, the firs newspaper of southern Indiana, was published in th old school room on a new Super-Royal press by th Owen Community.

There were cellars under the house, a small one fo the private use of the schoolmaster, a large one fo storing surplus vegetables for the community.

In 1913 this relic of the past was sacrificed to th spirit of progress. Some of the bricks taken from th walls are stamped with the date, 1822.

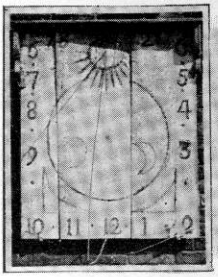
Besides the above described large buildings, the Rappites left about forty brick and frame dwellings and eighty log houses. Many of the former have survived a century of useful occupancy and may be seen today, remodeled and changed inwardly, but still occupying their quaint positions directly on the sidewalks, with their entrances on the side instead of in front of the house. The log houses are all gone but two—one on Main Street, the other, now weatherboarded, opposite the Tavern.

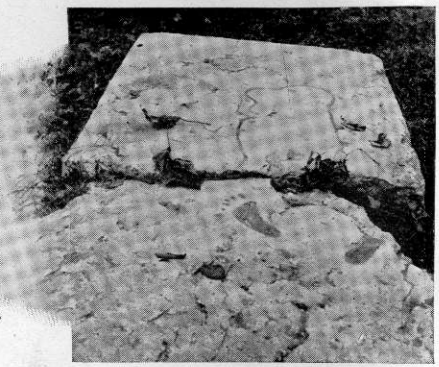
RAPP CEMETERY

Occupying about two acres of land near the center of the town of New Harmony is the old Rapp burying ground. Within its enclosure are some old Indian mounds showing that it had been used for the same purpose many years before by the Mound Builders. These were examined by the naturalist Lesueur, and their secrets revealed.

Here, under the trees, the Rappites laid their dead, young and old, high and low. A plan indicating the site of each grave was retained, but after a burial the place was sodded over before morning with nothing to mark the spot—equal in death as they had been in life.

In 1874, when the old church was taken down, they used some of the brick to build a wall around this cemetery, one foot thick and five feet high, covering it with a heavy coping of limestone, and guarding it with iron gates to keep this spot private and sacred forever.





FOOT-PRINT ROCK (TO THE RIGHT)---SUNDIAL (TO THE LEFT)

"George Rapp found at St. Louis, Mo., a large stone slab eight feet long and five feet wide and eight inches thick, upon which is seen the images of two human feet; in front of these is an irregularly rounded mark. The feet have the appearance of being the impress made on mud, and the scroll as being made with a stick in the hands of the owner, the mud, so impressed, subsequently hardened into stone."

This announcement of a visiting scientist in 1821, raised much controversy among geologists, but Dr. David Dale Owen proved the stone to be limestone of the palaeozoic age—that the tracks, however perfect, were carved by human hands.

Dr. Owen afterwards collected a number of stones containing carved human feet. Some of these were

taken with his collection to the State University at Bloomington, Indiana.

The Rapp stone is still in the yard where stood the old Rapp Mansion. There the story of the Angel Gabriel's appearing to warn these people of the coming of the end of the world, etc., and leaving his footprints, may be heard.

On the south end of No. 2, the Fretageot Building, is a sun dial bearing the date, 1821. It is made of several oak boards securely framed together, with an iron rod so placed as to cast a shadow on certain figures painted upon it, numbering the hours of the day. This served as a town clock for the Rappites and was placed upon the south end of the Rapp Mansion. When that edifice burned in 1844, the sun dial was rescued and set in its present position, where it has been kept painted and is still consulted, though looked upon as a curiosity.

THE LABYRINTH.

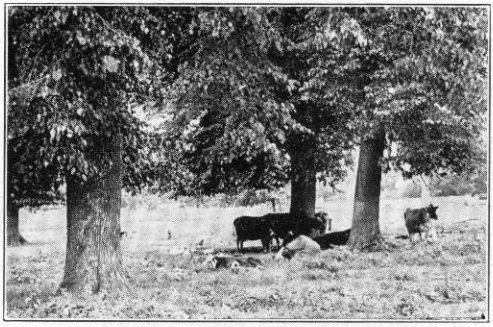
DRAWN BY MR. DAVID SCHNEE AT AGE OF 85 AS HE REMEMBERED BEING TAKEN INTO THE LABYRINTH BY HIS FATHER AS A CHILD IN 1826.

Situated south of the orchard and north of the road lead'ng to the Cut–off River, was the Labyrinth, the pleasure ground of the Harmony Society.

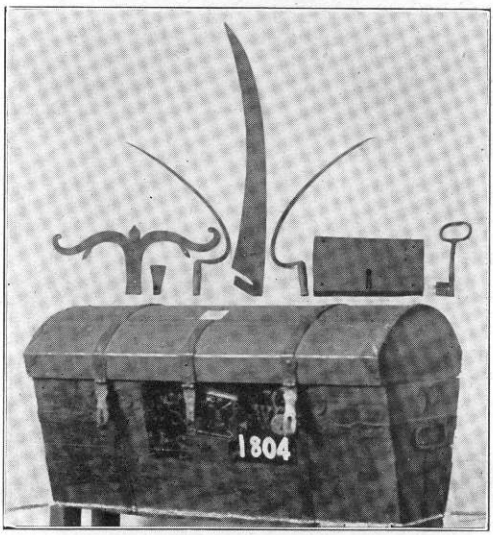
Within a circle of about one hundred and forty feet in diameter, there were formed concentric circles, with green hedgerows, flower bordered, presenting an intricate pathway that puzzled people to get to a little temple in the centre. This house, so rough and unattractive on the outside, but smooth and beautiful within, was emblematic of the life of the Rappites.

Robert Dale Owen says: "The rough exterior of the shrine and the elegance displayed within, were to serve as types of toil and suffering, succeeded by happy repose."

The hedges were cut down about 1840.

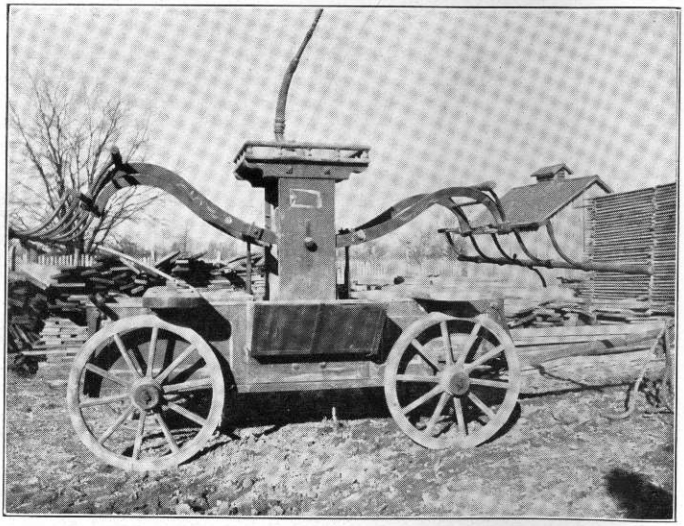


SITE OF THE LABYRINTH



RAPPITE TRUNK AND OTHER RELICS
IN THE LIBRARY MUSEUM

Another Rapp trunk is in the possession of the Lichtenberger family. It has on it the name of John L. Baker.



THE "PAT LYON"

When George Rapp established his community on the Wabash, he brought with him from Pennsylvania a fire engine, made for him in 1804 by Pat Lyon of Philadelphia. This engine has been in New Harmony ever since. It is a hand power machine, the pumping may be done by eighteen men.

A fire company was organized in 1848, and until 1879 the old Rapp engine was the only one used. Although the town has owned several engines and now has a modern gasoline one, the old one has been used to advantage in very recent years and is not yet worn out.

GEORGE RAPP

From Photograph of the only Portrait of George Rapp.

Rapp Family

George Rapp, founder of the Harmony Society, 1757–1847.
Married Christina Benzinger, 1783.
Son—John, 1783–1812.
Daughter—Rosina, 1786–1834.
Daughter of John—Gertrude, 1808–1889.
Adopted son of George Rapp—Frederick Reichert, called Frederick Rapp, 1775–1834.

Other Prominent Rappites

John L. Baker, agent for Rapp, store keeper.
Romelius L. Baker, trustee, postmaster, store keeper.
Mr. Muller, bandmaster, teacher, printer.
Jacob Neff, one of the oldest members.
Jonathan Lenz, trustee, business agent.
Jacob Henrici, trustee, succeeded Father Rapp.
(Was in love with Miss Gertrude.)
Johannes Reichert, brother of Frederick.
Adam Nachtrieb, one of band of elders.
Lewis Schreiber, manager of cotton factory.
John Schreiber, manager of Tavern.
John D. Hay, Rapp agent at Vincennes, owned a store there.
John Caldwell, agent at Shawneetown, store there.

WILLIAM OWEN

(From pen and ink sketch by D. D. Owen, by permission of Mrs. J. W. Hiatt, his daughter.)

Owen Family

Robert Owen, founder of the Owen Community, 1771–1858. Married Miss Caroline Dale in 1799. She died in 1831.

Sons—

Robert Dale, 1801–1877.
William, 1802–1842.
David Dale, 1807–1860.
Richard, 1810–1890.

Daughters—

Jane Dale, 1806–1861.
Anne Caroline, died 1830. Did not come to America.
Mary, died 1832. Did not come to America.

Robert Dale Owen, married Miss Mary Jane Robinson, 1832.

Children—

Julian Dale.
Florence Dale (Mrs. James Cooper).
Ernest Dale.
Rosamond Dale (Mrs. Templeton).

William Owen, married Miss Mary Bolton, March 23, 1837.

Daughter—

Mary Frances (Mrs. J. W. Hiatt).

David Dale Owen, married Miss Caroline Neef, March 23, 1837.

Children—

Alfred Dale.
Anna Maclure (Mrs. Charles Crawford).
William Henry.
Nina Dale (Mrs. Charles Parke).

Richard Owen, married Miss Anne Eliza Neef, March 23, 1837.

Children—

Nora Edgworth.
Eugene Fellenberg.
Horace Pestalozzi.

Jane Dale Owen, married Robert Henry Fauntleroy, 1835.

Children—

Eleanor (Mrs. George Davidson).
Constance (Mrs. James Runcie).
Edward.
Arthur.

ROBERT OWEN

Robert Owen, the celebrated social reformer, who established the community at New Harmony, was born at Newtown, Wales, March 14, 1771.

At an early age he became interested in cotton spinning, at which later he made a fortune. In his co-operative mills at New Lanark, Scotland, he became interested in working people and wrote and practiced rules for improving their condition. He visited the schools of Pestalozzi and Fellenberg, then established those for his working people. He was called the "Father of infant schools."

In1824 he came to America and bought from George Rapp, in January, 1825, 30,000 acres of land, including the town of Harmonie —to which he gave the name New Harmony—for the purpose of establishing a community of equality.

The attention of the whole world was drawn to his project by his speeches in the eastern cities explaining his plan for the "redemption of the human race from the existing state of society." His idea was "to root out all crime, to abolish punishment, to create similar views and similar wants, and in this manner to abolish all dissensions and warfare."

Even after the failure of his experiment, he visited this country several times, lecturing in New Harmony for the last time in 1844.

He brought to this country four sons and one daughter, all of whom lived in New Harmony. The sons were all distinguished men; the daughter, an educated, talented woman.

Mr. Owen spent his last years in public efforts in behalf of socialism and died in 1858 at Newtown, the place of his birth.

WILLIAM MACLURE

From photograph by W. F. Lichtenberger of Northcote's portrait.

William Maclure, associated with Mr. Owen in the purchase and educational interest of New Harmony, was a Scotchman born at Ayr, in 1763. As a merchant in London, he accumulated a large fortune. Becoming interested in science and education, he bought, in 1819, 10,000 acres in Spain and established there an agricultural school.

This failing, he came to America, where he had, before this, distinguished himself by making the first geological map of the country east of the Mississippi River, was president of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, and a member of many other scientific societies. As a philanthropist, his object was always to "diffuse knowledge among the industrious producers" and his earnest endeavor was to "prove to the inhabitants of our union that children could clothe, feed and educate themselves by the product of their own labor."

In 1826 he brought to New Harmony his School of Industry from Philadelphia. In 1827, when the community was abandoned, the town property was divided between Mr. Owen and himself and the school continued for several years. Later he traveled and then resided in Mexico for his health.

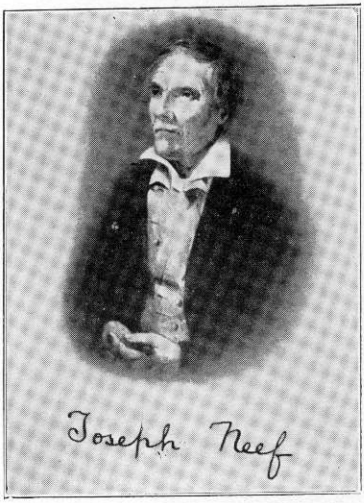
He was the first great founder of libraries, establishing a system of mechanics' libraries in 150 western towns. The New Harmony Workingmen's Institute was founded by him in 1838. The Library has a portrait of Mr. Maclure painted by the celebrated English artist, James Northcote, in 1797. He died in San Angel, near the City of Mexico, in 1840.

FRANCES WRIGHT D'ARUSMONT

"Boat Load of Knowledge"

When William Maclure decided to move his School of Industry from Philadelphia to New Harmony, he had a keel boat built at Pittsburgh on which to carry the instructors and others down the Ohio River, then the highway of the West. This boat was named the "Philanthropist." The people drove from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh in carriages and wagons. From there it was a long, tedious voyage, because of the vicissitudes attending the winter season on the river. Mr. Robert Owen, who started with them, chafing at the numerous delays, drove across the country, arriving some time before the boat, which landed at New Harmony January 26, 1826. Some of the passengers came overland from Mt. Vernon, fifteen miles.

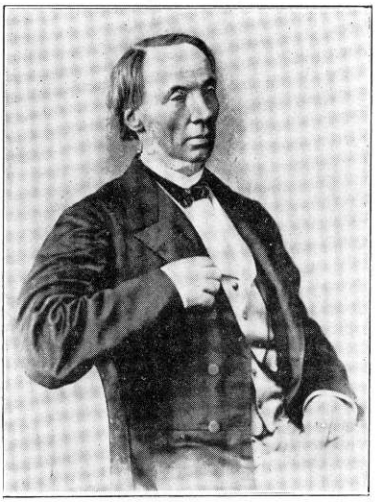
Following is the list of people on board: Robert Owen, Robert Dale Owen, William Maclure, Thomas Say, Charles Alexander Lesueur, Gerard Troost, William Phiquepal d'Arusmont, Frances Wright and Sister Camilla, Mme. Marie D. Fretageot, her son Achilles, Dr. Samuel Chase and wife, Oliver Evans, Jr., John Beal, wife and infant daughter, (afterwards Mrs. Caroline Lichtenberger), Peter and Victor Duclos, Virginia Dupalais and Victor, Cornelius Tiebout and daughter Caroline, John Speakman and family, Capt. Donald McDonald, Lucy Sistaire and two sisters, Allen Ward, Mark Penrose, Amedie Dufour, Charles Falque, and Belthazar Obeonesser, a Swiss artist.



FRANCIS JOSEPH NICOLAS NEEF

Some members of the Owen Community who did not come on the Boat Load of Knowledge.

William Owen, business manager, 1824.
Joseph Neef and family, Pestalozzian teachers.
Josiah Warren, inventor of printing press, time store, leader of band.
Samuel Bolton, chemist, lecturer.
John Cooper, superintendent of farms.
Samuel Dransfield, in charge of vineyard.
James Elliott, farmer from Albion.
Mr. Maidlow, farmer from Albion.
Robert L. Jennings, one of the editors of the New Harmony Gazette.
William Pelham, one of the editors of the New Harmony Gazette.
Thomas Palmer, printer, Gazette first printed in his home.
Dr. Elias McNamee, tavern-keeper.
Gen. Robert Morgan Evans, tavern-keeper.
Louis Gex Oobussier, store keeper.
John Schnee, postmaster
Jacob Schnee, miller, first president of P. C. A. S.
William and Edward Cox, Sr.
William Augustus Twigg, Brig. General, 1825.
Paul Brown, cynic.
William F. and Ebenezer Phillips, surveyors, Posey County.
Dan Lynn, first Representative to State Legislature.
Dr. William Price, Superintendent of Agriculture.
J. K. Coolidge, Superintendent of Manufacturers and Mechanics.
Stedman Whitwell, Superintendent of General Economy.
Warner W. Lewis, Secretary of Community.
William Taylor, in charge of the store.
William Sampson, 1825.



ROBERT DALE OWEN

Visitors to Harmonie

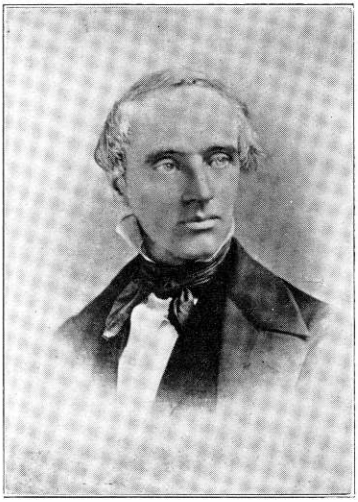
1817-1822.

George Flower, July 25, 1817.
Morris Birkbeck, July 25, 1817.
Thomas Hulme, July 1, 1818, sent by William Cobbett.
Adlard Welby, September, 1819.
William Faux, November 20, 1819.
Richard Flower, January, 1820.
John Woods, February, 1821.
Henry R. Schoolcraft, July 19, 1821.
William Hebert, 1822.

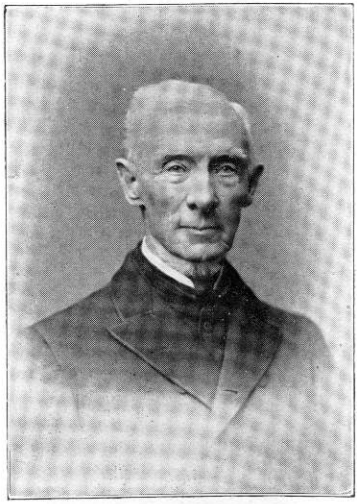
Visitors to New Harmony

1825—1860.

J. J. Audubon.
Count Bernhard, Duke of Saxe-Weimer, 1826.
James Stuart, 1828.
Maximilian, prince of Wied-Neuweid, Oct. 19, 1832—March 16, 1833, and June 6-9, 1834.
Charles Bodmer, artist with Maximilian.
Mr. Dreidopple, taxidermist with Maximilian.
Sir Charles Lyell, April, 1846.
Prof. Joseph Tasso, composer of Arkansaw Traveler, 1853.
M. de Verneuil, French geologist, 1860.



DR. DAVID DALE OWEN

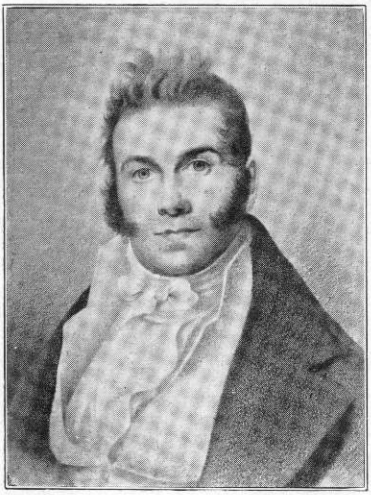


DR. RICHARD OWEN

Early Scientists in New Harmony

1826—William Maclure, geologist.
Thomas Say, zoologist.
Charles Alexander Lesueur, naturalist, artist.
Dr. Gerard Troost, Holland geologist.
Constantine Samuel Raffinesque, botanist, author.

Later—Dr. David Dale Owen, geologist, United States and State.
Dr. Richard Owen, geologist, science teacher.
Edward T. Cox, State geologist of Indiana.
Dr. George Engleman, botanist.
G. G. Shumard, geologist.
B. F. Shumard, State geologist of Texas.
J. G. Norwood, State geologist of Illinois.
A. H. Worthen, State geologist of Illinois.
Dr. Robert Peters, chemist and geologist.
Dr. Joseph Leidy, geologist.
Major Sidney Lyon, geologist.
F. B. Meek, paleontologist and author.
Dr. C. C. Parry, western botanist.
E. Phillips, assistant to Dr. Owen.
Col. Charles Whittlesey, geologist, archiologist.
Leo Lesquereux, described fossil ferns near New Harmony in 1875.
Dr. William Elderhorst, chemist.
John Bartlett, described shells near New Harmony.
Dr. John Locke, chemist.



THOMAS SAY

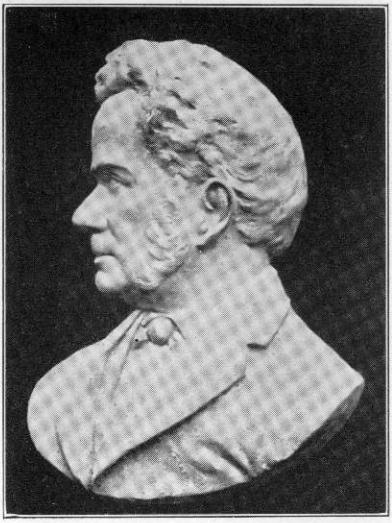
Mr. Maclure brought with him to New Harmony, in 1826, his friend and scientific associate, Thomas Say, to help establish a school of natural science.

Mr. Say was an indefatigable writer and tireless worker. Two of his celebrated works, his Entomology and his Conchology, were completed at New Harmony. The latter was printed by the School of Industry and was illustrated with drawings and water colors by his wife, who was Miss Lucy Sistaire. Previous to this he was one of an expedition to study natural history in Florida in 1817, and was with Long's Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1819-20.

It is said of him, "No department of natural science was left untouched and none he touched, unconquered." He was a charter member of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and belonged to many national societies. The last eight years of his life were spent in New Harmony collecting specimens, naming species and living amid nature's world. He died here in 1834.

SAY'S TOMB

In 1845, following out the wishes of his brother, Alexander Maclure had a brick vault built in the north end of the lot on which his residence stood, in which to place the remains of Thomas Say. He erected over it a monument inscribed with tokens of love and esteem. This marble was shipped from New York via New Orleans which was a slow and uncertain transit. Later, in the same vault, were placed the remains of Anne, Margaret and Alexander Maclure and still later Dr. David Dale Owen. The latter have been moved to Maple Hill, the others remain. In 1906 Mr. John Corbin had the tomb permanently closed.



JOSIAH WARREN

Josiah Warren was born in Boston, Mass., in 1798 and at an early age displayed musical talent and played professionally in local bands. Later he was engaged in mechanical pursuits in Cincinnati and was the leader of an orchestra. Among other things he invented a lamp in 1821 in which lard was used, which was much cheaper than candles.

Becoming interested in Mr. Owen's experiment at New Harmony, he became, in 1826, an enthusiastic member. Here he was leader of the band. After the failure of the Community, he returned to Cincinnati where he delivered lectures on Equitable Commerce, and opened a Time Store. He then returned to New Harmony and experimented with his Time Store.

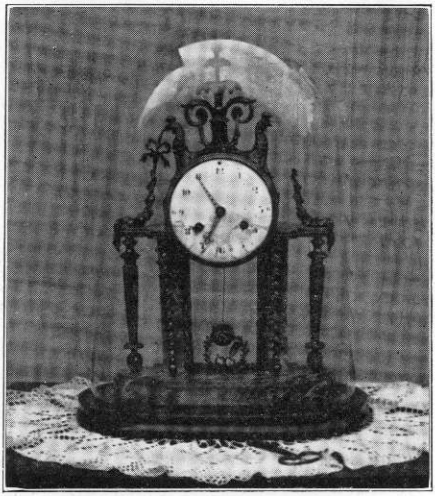
In 1840 he invented the first press to print newspapers from a continuous roll. He organized a Philosophy of Individualism and founded two community towns. He invented a system of music which he called Mathematical Notation, and in 1844 printed the book by his newly perfected Universal Topography. (Copy in the Library).

When his eventful life was almost spent he returned to Boston where he died in 1874.

MME. MARIE DUCLOS FRETAGEOT

Early Teachers in New Harmony

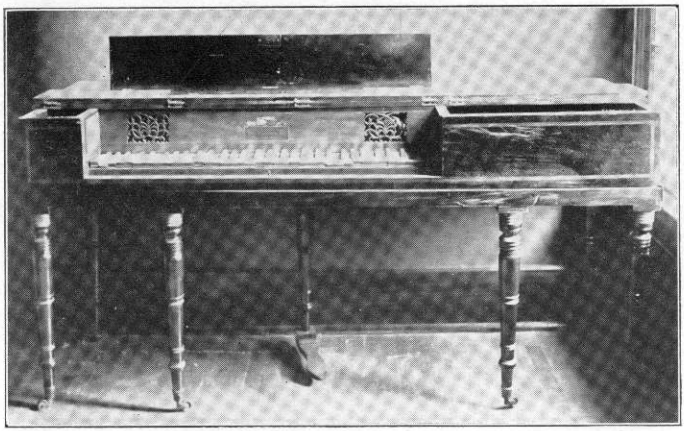
Rapp—Mr. Muller.
1825—Mrs. Frances Carr.
Miss Emily McNamee.
1826—Joseph Neef, wife, three daughters and son.
William Phiquepal d'Arusmont.
Mme. Marie D. Fretageot.
Gerard Troost, chemistry.
Thomas Say, natural history.
Charles Alexander Lesueur, drawing.
Cornelius Tiebout, engraving and printing.
Robert Dale Owen.
Lucy Sistaire Say, drawing and water color.
John Beal, cabinet making.
Mr. Applegath.
Later—William C. Pelham.
Richard Owen.
Thomas Mumford.
Mrs. Chase, music and drawing.
Mr. Dorsey.
Paul Brown.



MME. FRETAGEOT'S CLOCK

A relic and heirloom of the Fretageot family is an old and beautiful clock. It was brought to America in 1822, and to New Harmony in 1826, by Mme. Fretageot. It had been in their family in France for 124 years. Now in 1914, in the home of her great grandson, A. E. Fretageot, it is 216 years old. A thirty day clock, it has an artistic frame with gilt and marble columns, and stands under a glass case. The key is very large.

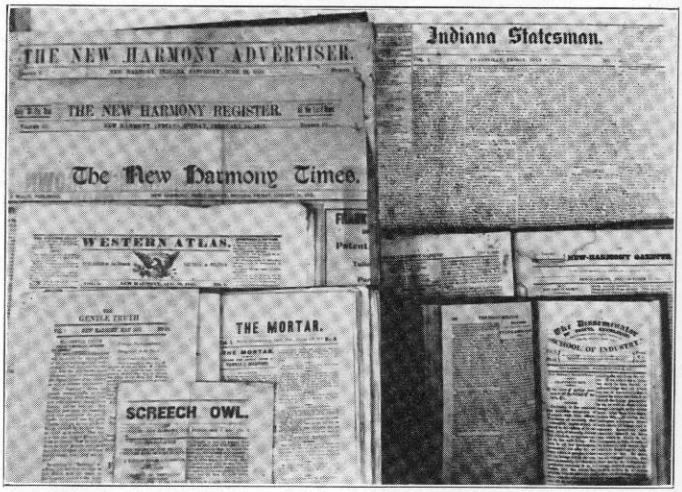
A Maclure clock is now the property of Mrs. John Corbin. It stands today on perhaps the same marble mantel that it did in days of old.



PIANO OF VIRGINIA POULARD DUPALAIS

The piano of Mme. Fretageot is also preserved. It bears the date 1821 and was made in Paris. The sounding board is placed on top of the strings.

A piano that was Virginia Poulard Dupalais' and was for many years in New Harmony, is still in the possession of her family and is at present in Virginia in the home of her grandson, A. Gilbank Twigg.



NEWSPAPERS

NEW HARMONY GAZETTE, 1825-1828.

This was the first newspaper published in Posey County. It was the official organ of the Owen Community. First editors were William Owen and Robert L. Jennings, then William Pelham. Later Robert Dale Owen and Frances Wright took charge. In October, 1828, it became The New Harmony and Nashoba Gazette. Soon after it was moved to New York and became The Free Enquirer.

THE DISSEMINATOR, 1828-1841.

William Maclure's School of Industry published the Disseminator, Cornelius Tiebout, printer and engraver, instructing. Thomas Say was one of the editors, and on this press was printed his Conchology, Maclure's Opinions, Michaux's North American Sylva and other books. In 1838 William Amphlett became editor and so continued until the publication ceased.

INDIANA STATESMAN, 1842-1846.

Published first for a few months in Evansville. The editor was Alexander Burns, Jr., whose father was a cousin of the great Scottish poet.

WESTERN ATLAS, 1846-1847.

Edited by James Bennett, once a pupil of the School of Industry.

THE GLEANER, 1848-1849.

Edited by James Bennett.

THE NEW HARMONY ADVERTISER, 1858-1861.

Edited by Charles W. Slater, who left his paper to enter the federal army.

THE NEW HARMONY REGISTER, 1867-date.

Edited first by Charles W. Slater and James Bennett, then by Mr. Slater alone, and from 1894 to date by Harry T. Slater, his son.

THE NEW HARMONY TIMES, 1892-date.

Sole editor, Mr. Clarence P. Wolfe. The Times is a prominent patron in the cause of preserving local history.

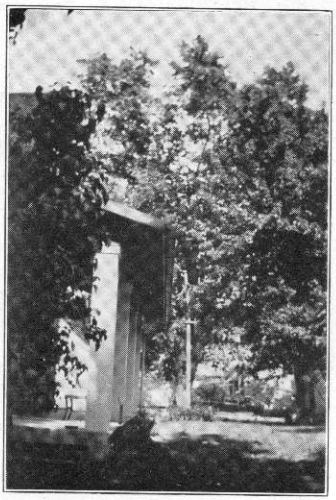
OLD FAUNTLEROY HOME
BIRTHPLACE OF THE "MINERVA"

Woman's Club

In 1859, Miss Constance Owen Fauntleroy founded a woman's literary club in New Harmony. The first meeting was held at her home. It was a regularly organized society, with constitution and by-laws.

They chose the name "Minerva." and selected as a motto "Sapientia Gloria Corona Est." This is conceded to be the first woman's club founded in the United States, as it antedates the Boston Woman's Club and Sorosis of New York by nine years.

There were thirteen charter members. A cross of laurel wood, gold mounted, was the badge of the society. The original manuscript minutes of the club are preserved in New Harmony and are of great interest.



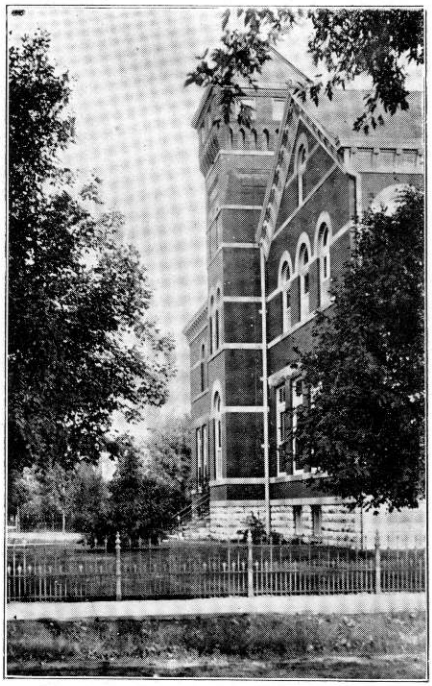
VIEW OF PORCH—FAUNTLEROY HOME, 1914

DAVID DALE OWEN'S LABORATORY

To house the accumulated geological and other specimens gathered during his services as United States Geologist and for his work in chemistry, etc., with a part of the valuable Maclure collection, Dr. David Dale Owen erected this building in 1859.

Previous to this he had used a large brick building, known as No. 7, the Shoe Factory, also the old Fort for this purpose. Some of this collection was afterwards sent to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, and $30,000 worth was sold to Indiana University.

The new laboratory cost $10,000. Dr. Owen died the year following its occupation and several years after it was converted into a dwelling, for which purpose it is still used by Mr. H. P. Owen's family.



LIBRARY OF THE WORKINGMEN'S INSTITUTE

The benevolent schemes of William Maclure to provide free education for the masses, and his ways for disseminating knowledge, resulted in establishing at New Harmony his most permanent benefaction—the Library of the Workingmen's Institute. It is the one visible modern result of all its founder's passionate desire and incessant interest in behalf of the "men who earned their living by the sweat of their brows."

The Workingmen's Institute was founded in 1838. Mr. Maclure's death in 1840, before his plans for helping the Institute were perfected, left the society to struggle for

its continuation as best it could. Through the untiring, unpaid efforts of some of its early librarians, especially Charles Hallett White, who served as secretary and librarian for nearly thirty years, and John Christopher Wheatcroft, it slowly grew until it absorbed the Township and Maclurian Libraries.

During the librarianship of Arthur Dransfield, who served the Institute so faithfully for thirteen years as Librarian and longer as secretary, the Library grew into interesting proportions. Dr. Edward Murphy became interested in it, and seeing with prophetic eye the end that might be accomplished with the money he had accumulated through a long and prosperous life, helped build, then endowed the Library, so that today it is one of the most valuable in the state. About 20,000 volumes are on its shelves; a priceless number of works on local history have been collected, mostly through the interest and judgment of Mr. Dransfield; an art gallery, the pictures selected by Dr. Murphy in Italy; a museum; all of which combine to "provide free education to the masses."

Rain Gauge

A meteorological journal was kept at New Harmony, and as early as 1826 a rain gauge was fixed here. This is still in use in the Library yard. The instrument was made at Washington, D. C., an exact copy of one there and one in London. Stedman Whitwell, who made the reports at that time, said, "By this uniformity of instruments the comparative quantities of rain which fall at New Harmony, Washington and London may be accurately observed." Dr. Gerard Troost made some of the government weather reports later, then Dr. David Dale Owen. From 1852 to 1882, a report was made by John Chapplesmith under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution for the Patent Office Agricultural report.

CUT-OFF DAM

At New Harmony the Wabash River separates into two streams to reunite again some two miles below. The main part curves so far to the west that the island formed contains nearly 4,000 acres. On the east branch, known as the Cut-Off River, the Rappites built a dam about 1815 to run their grist mill. This river was so small 'tis said the miller used to take several yoke of oxen and plow out the head of the stream in order to procure enough water to turn the wheels. It now carries by far the larger volume of water.

In 1850 the Wabash Navigation Company built a dam across it to turn the water around the island. This was destroyed by fire about 1866.

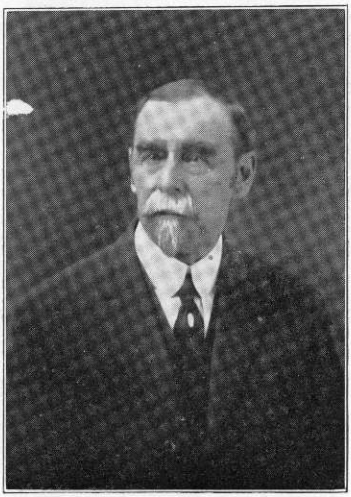
In 1876 the government began to build what is known as the New Dam, a little farther up this two mile stream, for the same purpose. Both were failures.

Nothing is left but the ruins of the latter and the beautiful natural rocky bed of the river, whose water, rushing over and around great rocks, make what is known as the Old Dam.

MURPHY AUDITORIUM

Favored above our neighboring towns, New Harmony has an endowed lecture course, one of a very few in the United States. Thanks again are due to Dr. Edward Murphy, who sought to extend the advantages of the Library, making it possible for almost our entire population to derive some benefit therefrom.

To house this lecture course, the Workingmen's Institute converted the surplus income derived from their liberal fund into the Murphy Auditorium, built in 1913 and dedicated January 20, 1914.

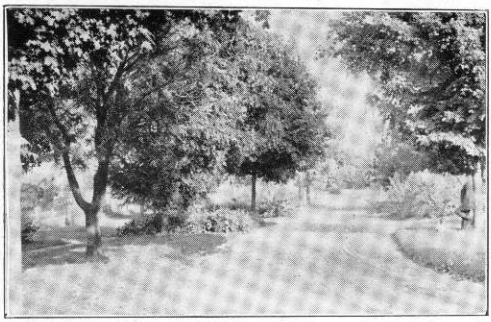


THE LATE HORACE PESTALOZZI OWEN,

who was always deeply interested in the problems of education. He was a member of the New Harmony School Board at the time of his death, March 9, 1914. His services in that capacity covered a period of 26 years.

NEW HARMONY HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

This new modern high school building speaks for itself of the present day interest of the town in education. The west entrance is of interest—both the portals and the doors were first used in the Rappite brick church, later in the old school building, and are now preserved in the new.



MURPHY PARK

Parks

Situated near the Wabash River, with facilities for aquatic pleasures, and surrounded by wild wooded hills, yet New Harmony has two parks for the further use of her lovers of out door life.

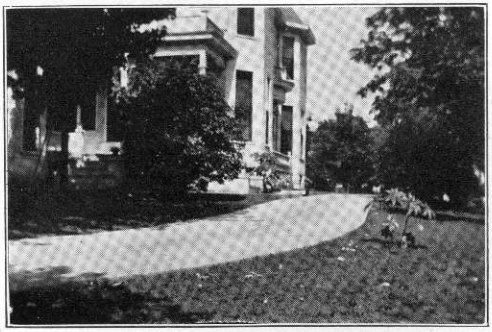
A part of the original Center Common, laid off by Mr. Owen in extending the Rappite town, 136 feet wide, one block long, was made into a little park some time ago and named for Mr. Maclure, who gave the plot to the town.

In 1890, Dr. Edward Murphy bought and presented to the town six acres of land on South Main Street for a park. It was planted with trees and shrubs according to the plans of a professional landscape gardener and generously endowed. This spot a grateful public call Murphy Park.

Fair Ground

As early as 1835 an agricultural society was organized in New Harmony, and the same year the New Harmony Jockey Club. These societies were formed by the early Owen brothers to encourage the rearing and improving of horses and stock.

The present Posey County Agricultural Society was organized in 1858, using the same grounds. The first fair of the latter was held October 25, 26, 27, 28, 1859. Since then there has been one held each year.



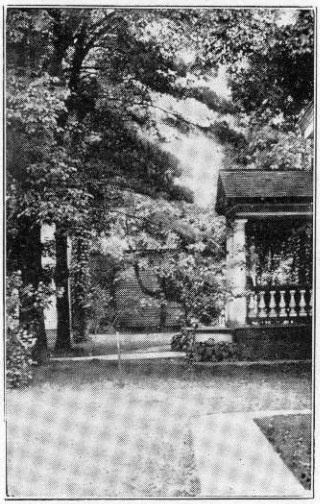
ALFRED RIBEYRE'S HOME

Trees

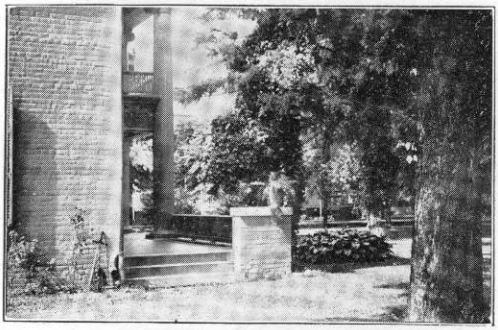
The first shade trees planted on the streets of Harmonie, Indiana, were the Lombardy Poplars. They were short lived and were replaced by the useful Mulberry. The Germans then planted the Black Locust. In later years these were attacked by insects, when Maple, Elm and other varieties have been used.

Near springs and streams were planted Osier Willows to be used in basket making. About 1828 William Maclure sent from the east to Thomas Say at New Harmony, some seeds of the Kohlreuteria. These he planted near the gate of the Maclure home and as the people could not remember the long name they called them "Gate trees," which name they have since borne locally. The Japanese call them Golden Rain trees, a name very applicable in June when the town is decorated by nature with their blossoms.

Mr. Say brought here the Osage Orange, named by the botanist, Nutthall, "Maclura aurantiaca," in honor of Mr. Maclure. In the forests are all the trees native to this section of the country.



PORCH FROM ROBERT DALE OWEN HOME, NOW PART OF THE HOME OF MARTIN T. GOLDEN OF NEW HARMONY'S FAMED DRAMATIC FAMILY



FORD HOME

HOME OF THE DESCENDANTS OF KILLIAN LICHTENBERGER, JOHN BEAL AND MORRIS BIRKBECK

"WHEATCROFT"

"Just practice being the result of just opinions, and human happiness being the certain result of just practice, it is equally our interest and our duty to aim at the formation of just opinions, with a view to the attainment of happiness."

—Frances Wright

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