

home where they are both acquainted with soil climate and productions they are great fools if they emigrate to any of these places.

Edward St. Loe Livermore

William Plumer, Jr.
Epping, New Hampshire

Charlestown, Indiana Territory
April 11, 1816

The Emigration from the eastward into this Territory this spring is prodigious—three hundred families have arrived at Jeffersonville in the course of the two past weeks but from some cause the settlers in this Territory are not so wealthy I believe as the settlers in either of the other Territories—Charlestown (the place where I now reside—I keep a tavern) is a flourishing little village with several large brick Houses & seven or eight smaller ones with an Elligant Court House, offices, Market House, etc. etc. Three miles from this place a Capt. John Workes has undertaken and succeeded in digging & blasting a race through a sollid [*sic*] rock the length of which is one hundred & five yards, the height of the race is six feet, and its width four feet, by making a dam of two feet said works turnes the water of a large stream called fourteen mile creek & in passing the race gets 22 feet fall. No settled plan has yet been agreed upon for taking advantage of the water—Iron Works (parnous) Cotton Manufactures &c—are talked of—Iron ore is said to be found in abundance 12 miles from here....This Country affords apples & Peaches in abundance—cider can be had at this time of the year at from four to five dollars per barrel and Apples at from \$2.50 to \$3 per barrel.

This Territory is settled princibly [*sic*] by people from North Carolina Virginia & Pensylvania some few from Massachusetts Connecticut and New York. The lands are very productive generally.

Stephen Rannay⁵

⁵ Colonel Stephen Rannay had written to William Plumer on February 3, 1816, asking that the latter use his influence and exertions in procuring for the veteran a small federal post in which to spend his declining years. Rannay claimed a total of sixteen years military service in two wars. He was apparently a New Hampshire emigrant to Indiana Territory. His letter was written as a letter of thanks after William Plumer, Jr., had assured Rannay that the elder Plumer was active in Rannay's behalf. It may be noted that the old soldier was not quite so literate a correspondent as the aristocratic Livermore, but he seemed able to appreciate the good qualities of the frontier more keenly. Charlestown, Indiana, is about fifteen miles, and almost north, from Jeffersonville. The town is a short distance from the Ohio. Charlestown was the county seat of Clark County from 1810 to 1813, when Jeffersonville, which had been the county seat from 1802 to 1810, supplanted its rival.

A VISIT TO NEW HARMONY IN 1883

Letter of Edward Travers Cox

The letter here reproduced from the Indianapolis *News* of October 31, 1883, was written by Edward Travers Cox while visiting New Harmony.¹ Mr. Cox was born on April 22, 1821, in Virginia. His father moved to New Harmony

¹ This New Harmony letter written by Mr. Cox was kindly brought to the attention of the editor by Miss Esther U. McNitt, Director of the Indiana History Division of the State Library.

in May, 1826, and his children attended the community school conducted during the Owen regime.² Edward Travers Cox learned the watchmaker's trade, but became interested in geology. He became a collector of specimens of natural history, working in conjunction with James Sampson. Mr. Cox described many of the fossils found in the vicinity of New Harmony, other parts of Indiana and in neighboring states, and he was associated with David Dale Owen while making some of his surveys during 1859-1860. Mr. Cox became state geologist for Indiana in 1869, and during his ten years in that office, conducted an extensive survey in Indiana, publishing a series of ten reports in seven volumes. The descriptions of fossil plants of North America included in these reports were written by Leo Lesquereaux, born in Switzerland, and well known in Europe and America. He was a friend of Arnold Guyot and Louis Agassiz.³ Among the assistants who worked for Mr. Cox were David Starr Jordan, John M. Coulter, and Jacob Schneck. Mr. Cox traveled much over the United States and Europe attending scientific meetings and searching for knowledge in his field. His last work was done in the phosphate fields of Florida. His was the distinction of discovering and revealing the value of the phosphates of Florida.

Mr. Cox died in Florida in 1907, and is buried in Indianapolis. He married a daughter of James Sampson, the student of natural history who first interested him in Geology. In an article of 1916, entitled "Development of Chemical Science in Indiana," Prof. James H. Ransom of Purdue University said of Edward Travers Cox that he was "not only a great geologist, but a great advertiser of the state's resources." Professor Ransom further declared, that it was "probably true that the analytical work done under the direction of Mr. Cox was the beginning of the earlier, if not the more recent, prosperity for which the state [Indiana] has long been noted."

John Collett, who accompanied Mr. Cox on his visit to New Harmony in October, 1883, was also a noted geologist, who filled the office on state geologist from 1881 to 1885. He had previously served as an assistant to Mr. Cox. While

²Most of the facts relative to the career of Mr. Cox were compiled for the editor by Miss Louise M. Husband, Director of the Library of the Workingmen's Institute of New Harmony.

³W. S. Blatchley, "A Century of Geology in Indiana," *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* (1916), XXXII, 89-197, contains considerable material relative to Messrs. Cox and Collett. See also James H. Ransom, "Development of Chemical Science in Indiana," *ibid.*, 391, for an evaluation of the work of Mr. Cox.

in office he prepared valuable reports. He was born in Vermillion County on January 26, 1828, and died in Indianapolis March 15, 1899. He was graduated from Wabash College in 1847. He served for a term in the state senate, beginning in 1871.³

[The Cox Letter]

AN OLD SETTLEMENT

The Harmonist Colony At New Harmony
Prof. Cox Gives an Entertaining
Description of It

(Correspondence of the Indianapolis News)
[1883]

New Harmony, Ind., October 27 [1883]—Prof. John Collett and I arrived here last Tuesday evening. We found the journey from Indianapolis, over the Vandalia line to Greenup,⁴ and from thence over the Peoria, & Decatur & Evansville railway to New Harmony, pleasant and interesting.⁵ Everybody knows that the Vandalia line is one of the best railroads in the union to travel on, it being an old and favorite route from the east to the great west, and its gentlemanly officers well understand how to provide for the wants and comforts of their patrons. The P. D. & E. is a new road; the passenger trains leave Peoria every morning, after the arrival of the trains from the west, and arrive in Evansville 6 p.m.; leave Evansville every morning for the west, and arrive at Greenup in time to make connection with the Vandalia express train for Indianapolis and New York. The appointments of the P. D. & E. R. [R.] are equal to the best; the coaches are well finished and comfortable, the track is laid over an almost level country, which is for the most part prairie, and it is remarkably straight and without high grades. We traveled with good speed and reached our destination on time.

The next morning we were delighted to meet Mr. Jonathan Lenz, from Economy, Penn., one of the trustees of the Society of Harmonists. Accompanying him was Judge Henry Hice, a friend and neighbor of the Harmonists, who lives at Beaver, Penn.⁶ From Mr. Lenz we obtained many interesting facts about the early settlement of this place and had the pleasure of visiting with him the scenes of his early childhood. Mr. Lenz is seventy-seven years old, is six feet and two inches high, of massive frame and has the appearance of being a remarkably strong and robust man. He walks with a quick and energetic step, has a pleasant, cheerful manner and a kind, familiar word for all. He cherishes the religion of his associates, and to judge from

⁴Greenup, Illinois, is the county seat of Cumberland County, and is located about forty-five miles from Terre Haute.

⁵This railway from Peoria to Evansville passed through Greenup and New Harmony. It crosses the Wabash at Graysville, Ill.

⁶Economy and Beaver are on the Ohio River in Pennsylvania below Pittsburgh, which means that they are northwest of that city.

himself and others who have from time to time revisited their old home, their religion has served to make them not only good and true to themselves, but to win for them the good will and esteem of all with whom they have any business or social relations.

It will be remembered that George Rapp was the founder of the Harmonist society, and was their leader and preacher up to the time of his death, in 1847, at the good old age of ninety. After arriving in this country, from Germany, they settled in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, and built the town of Harmony [Harmonie], now known as "Old Harmony." In 1813, George Rapp went west to look for a location, where they could obtain large bodies of good agricultural land at a small cost, ample water power to propel the machinery for their manufactures, and a less rigorous and more genial climate.

He decided upon the site of this place, and in contradistinction [*sic*] to the first settlement called it Harmony [Harmonie]. He purchased from the general government 30,000 acres of land, and arrangements were made, at once, to clear away the forests, build houses, and cultivate the land. The first detachment of Harmonists arrived at McFaden's landing, on the Ohio river, now called Mt. Vernon, in October, 1814. From 200 to 300 in number the young and strong, both men and women, were left to cut a wagon road and travel on foot to the new location on the Wabash river, 15 miles from Mt. Vernon by land, and 60 miles above the mouth of the Wabash river by water. The larger portion of the community continued in flat boats to the mouth of the Wabash river, and from thence up the stream in "keelboats." As soon as the party by land, of which Mr. Lenz, then a boy of seven years old, was one, reached the present town site, they commenced to make a camp of bushes. The land was covered with a magnificent forest of poplar, black-walnut, oak, hickory, etc. and a dense undergrowth of cane. The first house built now stands on the corner of Main and Tavern streets. It was long known as the German Tavern. No time was lost in providing log houses to shelter the whole community, which [*sic*] came as fast as the flatboats and keelboats could bring them, to the number of 600 or 700. Some meal and flour brought with them served as the principal food, and all their energies were directed to clearing land and having it ready for planting crops in the spring. The log-houses were without floors save the ground, and it was very difficult to obtain any plank. Shadrack Stallings, who lived on the Princeton road, a few miles to the east, and Nero, a negro man he had brought with him from Carolina, cut them what plank they could with a whip-saw, and Mr. Rabb, father of John Rabb, who had a small saw mill on Black river, was enabled to supply them with some plank, but far from being enough to provide for the comfort of so many families. A saw mill was built by the Harmonists just above the upper bridge on Gresham's creek, and another on Rush creek, where it was crossed by the first on Lower Mount Vernon road, and in time, lumber was obtained in sufficient quantities. The cut off, a large arm of the Wabash river, was cleared, about one and a half miles below the town and a fine four story frame grist mill, to contain four run of stone

was built. Attached to the grist mill there was a saw mill. The water power was found ample, and was available for most of the year.

The actual necessities of the people were now in a great measure relieved but during the first years of struggle to provide the comforts of life great hardships and much suffering had to be endured. Mr. Lenz says, that they would all commence work at daylight, and continue until dusk. Their meals would be brought to them in the fields. Returning home at night they would work by the light of lanterns, building fences around their dwellings, and in this way prepare the ground and plant gardens. Brick and frame houses soon supplanted the log cabins, and all were comfortably housed and surrounded with the luxuries of life. Large apple orchards, peach orchards, plum orchards, and vineyards had been set out and the fruit was made available for market, by drying and by distilling the juices. Hemp, flax and cotton fields were furnishing the fibers, and herds of sheep the wool, to be converted into cloth of various kinds for clothing. In 1817 they commenced to build a large steam mill, woolen factory, gin and cotton, yarn and cloth factory. The boiler and engine were upright, and the fly wheel was made of wood (iron, I know was afterwards substituted for this wood, as the immense iron-wheel stood in the lot for many years after the old mill had burned down.) A dye-house was also built and they not only made clothing for themselves, but a large surplus of cloth to be sold in the market. The immense fields of corn and wheat furnished bountiful crops of grain, and a surplus of meal and flour was sent to the New Orleans market. Two mills were built on Gresham's creek for manufacturing oil from flax, hemp, rape and poppy seeds. The brewery and distillery, furnished an abundance of drink for the surrounding country besides what they required for themselves. It is a well-known fact that the Harmonists were, notwithstanding, a remarkably temperate people, it being their object to convert the products of the land into such articles as found a ready sale at home and abroad. No matter what the Harmonists made, it was honestly and faithfully done, and their name was a passport that none could dispute and all honored.

Rapidly emerging from the privations and hardships that had to be encountered and endured, their comfortable homes had been supplied with admirable vegetable gardens, fruit trees and flowers adorned each yard, and a lovelier spot was nowhere to be found. There was a well kept public garden where the band would play music to delight the young and old, and a labyrinth in which the uninitiated would be lost, or at least bewildered. Mr. Rapp conceived the idea of erecting a large building in the form of a cross, to supplant the frame church and offer better accommodations for the assembled community. This building was finished in 1822. Each of the four wings were forty feet long and forty feet wide, and the main body of the building was eighty feet square and about eighty feet high, topped off with a four-sided bee-hive looking dome, that was surrounded by a promenade guarded by bannisters. There was a short bridge that connected the upper story of the east wing of this hall with the upper story of the frame church. The frame church had a belfry seven stories high; the upper

part was octagonal and terminated in a cone-shaped steeple. In the belfry there was a large clock with wheels strong enough for a grist mill. This clock struck every quarter of an hour on the little bell and repeated the hours on the great bell, which could be heard for many miles beyond the lands of the colony.

Nothing had been left undone, so far as the efforts of men guided by wise counselors could be exerted, to make the Harmonists comfortable and happy. When the grain was ready to be cut, the band numbering twenty musicians with a great variety of instruments, would play in the public square early in the morning, and by 4 o'clock the harvesters, to the number of 200 or more, would assemble with their reap-hooks (sickles) in hand, and march with the band to the field. At 6 a.m. a light breakfast would be brought to them, and another meal at 10 a.m. and still another at 3 p.m. In this way a field of wheat of seventy acres or more would be cut and shocked by 6 o'clock in the afternoon, when they would be escorted by the band back to their homes.

The rapid destruction of the forest and the turning up of such a vast area of virgin soil, filled the air with poisonous malaria and the angel of death, with sickle keener than those of the merry harvesters, visited every household, and from 200 to 300 were laid to rest in the beautiful grave yard which for seventy years has been held sacred. No stones were erected to mark each grave, but they were laid side by side and the ground was levelled above them. This burying ground is about 400 feet square and is enclosed by a high brick wall. There are a number of small Indian mounds within the enclosure and the whole is covered with a fine grove of locust trees that were planted at regular intervals.

So great a mortality made the Harmonists dissatisfied with the place, and it was sold to Robert Owen, town and lands, for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The first steamboat that ascended the Wabash river was called the Plow Boy; it was in 1817, and when came in sight of New Harmony, the Germans brought out their cannon to fire a salute, but in the absence of the regular gunner, besides the charge of powder the gun was rammed full of dirt, with a view of making a greater noise. When fired, the cannon burst, killing one man and breaking the leg of another. About this time the Harmonists had a steamboat built which they called the William Penn. On this steamboat and others employed for this purpose they moved from New Harmony⁷ in 1824 and 1825 to their present home, Economy.

Mr. Lenz took great pleasure in this second visit to New Harmony. It was Judge Hice's first visit and after remaining two days, they took the train for their respective homes. E. T. Cox.

THE OCEAN CROSSING OF VEVAY'S FOUNDERS

Foreword

The following narrative of the voyage across the Atlantic was originally written in French by one of the com-

⁷ The name was changed from *Harmonie* to *New Harmony* by Robert Owen after the departure of the Rappites.