



Historic New Harmony

In Harmony Newsletter

JUNE 2022 Edition

Interim Assistant Director's Update

Excitement is building in the HNH Office regarding our Lilly Religion and Cultural Institution Initiative planning grant. The survey is completed, results are being studied, site visits are being made and the possibilities seem endless. [Read more about the planning grant process](#)

The Atheneum

In March, Paul was contacted by a group of students from Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology in Xi'an, China. Their professor wanted them to have a deeper understanding of famous architects and their buildings. [Read more about their work with the Atheneum](#)

The Harmonist Brick Church and the "Door of Promise"

As we celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the "Door of Promise," learn more about the history of the Harmonist Brick Church in this month's [History Lesson](#).

NHGCA Update

Over the next few weeks, the gallery side of New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art will be closed for some exciting facilities upgrades. [Learn more about these upgrades](#)

MAY 2022 Edition

Interim Assistant Director's Update

The HNH team has been incredibly busy, and we just didn't get an April newsletter released. It felt weird not sitting down to write my monthly article, but it's a new month and we're ready to get back on track! [Read more from Claire](#)



Historic New Harmony

Assistant Director's Update

JUNE 2022

Claire Eagle, Interim Assistant Director

Excitement is building in the HNH Office regarding our [Lilly Religion and Cultural Institution Initiative planning grant](#). The survey is completed, results are being studied, site visits are being made and the possibilities seem endless.

In the last few weeks, Leslie and I have completed two of our four site visits. The first was to [Old Economy Village](#) in Ambridge, Pennsylvania and [Historic Harmony](#) in Harmony, Pennsylvania. While these sites have not received this grant from Lilly previously, we thought that as the other two communities built by the Harmonists, they warranted a visit as we look at how we can better interpret religion in our exhibitions and programming. Especially because Old Economy Village holds the majority of Harmonists artifacts and all of their written records. A first visit for both of us, we were amazed by the differences in each site. From the architecture and collections to how each site is managed differently; Old Economy Village is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission while Historic Harmony is privately managed. We greatly enjoyed visiting with our colleagues at these sites and returned with a deeper understanding of the Harmony Society.

Our second visit was to [Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill](#) in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Shaker Village previously received funds from the Lilly Endowment Inc. that worked to restore some of their religiously significant properties and complete an exhibition focusing on the religious beliefs of their Society. Additionally, this site is the most like Historic New Harmony that has received funds under this initiative. The beauty of Shaker Village was awe-inspiring, much like New Harmony is to new visitors. We spent a day with President and CEO Maynard Crossland and Vice President of Public Programming and Marketing Billy Rankin, while they showed us the site and shared their experience with the initiative. They were so helpful and eager to help us in any way they could, and we are so thankful for their hospitality.

While we've only completed two of our four site visits, our proposal is beginning to come together. We hope our last two site visits, the [Smithsonian Folklife Festival](#) in Washington D.C. and the [Snite Museum of Art](#) on Notre Dame's campus in South Bend, Indiana, really help us put the finishing touches on our proposal. Traveling as much as we are certainly is different than what we do on a typical basis, but these visits are truly maximizing my appreciation of Historic





New Harmony and sparking ideas of how we can make it better in the future.

MAY 2022

Claire Eagle, Interim Assistant Director



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Historic New Harmony

History Lesson

JUNE 2022

The Harmonist Brick Church and the “Door of Promise”

Claire Eagle, Interim Assistant Director

There is no clear reason why the Harmonists decided to build a second church. The first church, a white wooden framed building, was built only a few years earlier in 1815. Three stories tall with a steeple and bell, this building was exactly what you picture when you hear the word “church.”

The Harmonist Brick Church was much different. Built in the shape of a Maltese cross, each arm was equal length and had an entrance. Travelers were often amazed at the beauty of the architecture and would document what they saw. William Hebert in his writings stated, “I could scarcely imagine myself to be in the woods of Indiana, on the borders of the Wabash, while pacing the long resounding aisles, and surveying the stately colonnades of this church.”

The north wing had the “Door of Promise.” Designed by Fredrick Rapp, the lintel featured a carving of the golden rose, the year 1822 and the inscription of Micah 4:8.

This verse from the Bible, translated by Martin Luther reads, “And Thou, o Tower of Eder, a stronghold of the Daughter of Zion, Thy Golden Rose shall come, the former dominion, the Kingdom of the Daughter of Jerusalem.” The golden rose used in Luther's translation is an allusion to a symbol given to kings who were favored by the Church. The rose also represents the restoration of God's kingdom on Earth, which is centered at Jerusalem. The rose became a trademark of the Harmonists' exports as they were anticipating the second coming of Christ and the restoration of God's kingdom on Earth.





Years later when a delegation of Harmonists led by Jonathan Lenz and Jacob Henrici returned to tear down the Church, the bricks were used to build a wall around the Harmonist Cemetery, which still stands today. However, the “Door of Promise” remained and became the north door to the New Harmony School. When that school was torn down in 1913, the door still stood and became the west door of the new school. The 1913 school was taken down in the fall of 1988 and the “Door of Promise” was finally moved from where it stood for over 100 years. The doorway, lintel and remaining windows were moved to a storage area for safekeeping. These items are now in the Historic New Harmony collection, and we hope to exhibit them soon.

DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

Christmas Traditions

Paul Goodman, Experience Coordinator

Christmas during the nineteenth century here in New Harmony wasn't celebrated the same way we do today. The Harmonists had no lights, no inflatable snowmen or Santas and no celebration of the nativity. There was more religious zeal than all the glam and glitter. However, some Harmonists would have some simple decorations in their homes. Christmas day would have been heralded in with laurel, myrtle, orange branches and ivy draped across mantels and lintels. Simple swags of holly, ivy and other branches would be placed on fence gates and sills. Being from Germany, they did practice the tradition of the Evergreen tree, but instead of baubles and string lights it would be trimmed with cookies, colored popcorn, nuts and oranges. At noon, the children of the community would receive a sack with a combination of candy, colored popcorn, an orange, walnuts, dried grapes, figs and dates. In the evening, there would have been a large feast of rice soup, roast veal, beef, apple schnitzel, sauerkraut, bread, ginger cakes and wine. No talking was allowed during the feast except for the music that was to be played and sung between the courses. However, this was not a day that they would've gotten off from work like we do today. Work would've continued throughout the festivities, as well as three church services throughout the day.

The Owen community, as well as many around the rest of the United States, continued to celebrate Christmas depending on where you came from and what your country-of-origin traditions were. Many in the Owen Community that came from Britain would feast, gamble, hunt and visit with friends as such as the customs in British manors would be. The feasts would be grand with goose being the main star of the meal. If you could not afford goose, many people celebrated with rabbit. If those with wealth wanted to be like Queen Victoria, they would have a lavish feast with beef and a royal roast swan or two. If you came



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New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art Update

JUNE 2022

Iris Williamson

Over the next few weeks, the gallery side of New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art (NHGCA) will be closed for some exciting facilities upgrades. Specifically, we will install new LED track lighting and painting the ceiling. While this is only one of several projects on our grand facilities-upgrades docket, it will likely be the most impactful. We anticipate a beautiful Second Saturday opening in a refreshed gallery space from 4 to 6 p.m. on July 9, with “Utopia Land” by internationally respected artist Modou Dieng Yacine. Brightly colored paintings and photographs—incorporating architecture, abstraction and memories of growing up in Senegal—represent Dieng Yacine’s imagined utopia. “Utopia Land” will be an excellent exhibition, and we hope you will join us on July’s opening during New Harmony Second Saturdays!

In the meantime, our Gallery Shop will be open during regular hours. Senior Gallery Associate Tonya Lance has been putting in a great effort over the last several months to keep the Gallery Shop fresh and exciting. New artists include Nasreen Khan, Diego Moralis-Portillo and Evelyn Sanford Nicholson. We also have new works by shop staples Jen Bretz, Mitzi Davis and Kazhia Kolb. Make sure to swing by; you never know what kind of treasures we will have in the NHGCA Gallery Shop!



Modou Dieng Yacine **UTOPIA LAND**

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Iris Williamson