



Historic New Harmony

In Harmony Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2022 Edition

Interim Assistant Director's Update

Last fall at a Historic New Harmony Advisory Board meeting, Provost Khayum shared his vision that all USI students would have an experience in New Harmony before they graduated. Spurred by his enthusiasm, members of the Advisory Board, the HNH team and USI faculty and staff came together to figure out how to fulfill that vision. [Read more about the UNIV101 New Harmony Experience](#)

ISMHS Update

Each year the New Harmony State Historic Site produces an exhibition in Thrall's Opera House on an aspect of The Golden Troupe. [Hear from Jess as she shares some of the research she's completed for the next exhibition](#)

Online Ticket Sales

We've listened to our visitors and have set up an online system for the purchase of New Harmony tour tickets. [Learn how to purchase tour tickets in advance](#)

AUGUST 2022 Edition

Interim Assistant Director's Update

As summer winds down, I can't help but look forward to my favorite season in New Harmony: fall. I'm ready for cooler temperatures, colorful leaves and Kunstfest. But before I get too ahead of myself, I thought I'd share what's been happening in utopia this summer. [Read more from Claire](#)

A Reflection on Labyrinths

Last month, Dr. Del Doughty began his tenure as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at USI. His love of labyrinths quickly led him to New Harmony, where he walked the Harmonist Labyrinth. [Read his reflection](#)



Historic New Harmony

Assistant Director's Update

September 2022

Claire Eagle, Interim Assistant Director

Last fall at a Historic New Harmony Advisory Board meeting, Provost Khayum shared his vision that all USI students would have an experience in New Harmony before they graduated. Spurred by his enthusiasm, members of the Advisory Board, the HNH team and USI faculty and staff came together to figure out how to fulfill that vision. What came out of that was the [UNIV101 New Harmony Experience](#).

On Tuesday, September 13, nearly the entire Class of 2026 visited New Harmony. Students began their visit with three required presentations. One on the two attempts at utopia, another on the art, architecture and design of New Harmony and, finally, one on the scientific importance of this community. Students then had a chance to explore additional stops where they could walk the Cathedral Labyrinth, enjoy the current exhibition at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art and even talk to professors, including Dr. Mike Strezewski and Dr. Kevin Valadares who have led projects in New Harmony.

We're not quite done yet! We still have debrief meetings to attend and a survey to distribute, but from our standpoint this program was a great success. It was wonderful to see so many students engaged in New Harmony. We are so thankful for all the USI faculty and staff, volunteers and, especially, Provost Khayum for making this possible.

If you'd like to see more photos from the day, please visit the [album from USI Photography and Multimedia](#).



AUGUST 2022

Claire Eagle, Interim Assistant Director



Historic New Harmony

New Harmony State Historic Site Update

SEPTEMBER 2022

Jess McPherson, New Harmony State Historic Site Coordinator



One of my many duties as site coordinator for the Indiana State Historic in New Harmony includes planning and executing exhibits. The state museum is currently hosting an exhibit on the Golden Troupe's famous Silver Band at Thrall's Opera House. However, exhibits are usually only on display for a couple of years, and this one's expiration is coming up. Therefore, I am currently working on planning the next exhibit, and I believe this one will be about the youngest of the Golden Troupe family; Frances "Fanny" Llewellyn Golden.

Born in 1877 in New Harmony, Frances Golden was practically born to be a star. Her parents were the famed Martin and Bella Golden, the faces of the Golden Troupe. A thespian family accompanied by the Silver Band and Orchestra, they traveled and performed across the American Midwest, Southwest, and South from 1875 to 1891. Fanny often joined in on performances and would play children's roles in their plays. After their matriarch, Bella, fell into poor health and retired from performing, the group disbanded as a formal thespian troupe. Little Fanny would grow up and continue to pursue her passion of performing and later founded the Evansville Civic Theatre. But the one piece of her life I would like to focus on is her part in World War I.

After studying Opera and Dramatic Arts in New York City, Frances joined a vaudeville circuit of traveling performers. This didn't last too long, however, as America joined the Great War. Frances joined the YMCA's "America's Over There Theatre League," an organization committed to entertaining U.S. troops in France at so-called "liberty theatres." My favorite artifact I've come across, while researching Miss Frances Golden, comes from this era. It is a letter typed on the USS Black Hawk dated December 26, 1918 that reads:

Smiles (Parody)

I have met some girls from Glasgow.
I have met some girls from Perth.
I have met some girls from dear old Paris
And thought them the finest on earth.
I met some pretty girls from England
And always let them have their say.
But the girls that filled my heart with sunshine
Were the girls from the U.S.A.

The above was written in honor of the Misses Bonnie M. Murray, Hinda Hand, and Frances Golden, American Y.M.C.A. entertainers, in whose company we spent a most enjoyable evening, December 26th 1918.

W.E. Wigmore
C.D. Northrop



It warmed my heart so much to think of Fanny and those two other women make their way over to war-torn Europe, met sailors who had suffered through the most intense and devastating experience of their entire lives, and spent a Christmas evening warmed by each other's company. In the aftermath of such destruction and horror, imagine getting to spend an evening with three talented young women really made those young men feel like their hearts were filled with sunshine.

Frances Golden led such a colorful life full of passion and dedication, and a letter like this highlights her story so well. I am excited to continue to learn more about her through my upcoming research. Keep your eyes open for a new Golden Family exhibit coming to Thrall's Opera House next year!

JULY 2022

Jess McPherson, New Harmony State Historic Site Coordinator

On June 4, the Indiana State Museum hosted a beekeeping class in Community House No. 2 titled "Beekeeping 101." This was the first program I oversaw from start to finish as the New Harmony Site Coordinator. It was definitely a learning experience, but I am very happy with how the class turned out. It was taught by fourth-generation beekeeper, Kelsey Gerhardt, who is from Evansville and has a strong working relationship with the State Museum. We had seven people attend the class in total and each participant was given informational handouts and a sample of Kelsey's home-grown honey. Along with her honey sticks, Kelsey brought along an "observation hive" (a single frame of a hive with glass on both sides) so we could observe the honeybees in their home. She also had a variety of models and tools for reference as she taught the class.



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SEPTEMBER 2022

Online Ticket Sales

Paul Goodman, Experience Coordinator

We've listened to our visitors and have set up an online system for the purchase of New Harmony tour tickets. Guests can now buy tickets online ahead of time for our group and daily tours. You can make that purchase directly from our website under [Historic Tours](#). Our daily tours end October 31, 2022, so buy your ticket now and come enjoy beautiful New Harmony in its Fall finest. November and December offer weekend tours only. Please click on the link below. Hope to see you soon!

[Purchase Tickets](#)



AUGUST 2022

A Reflection on Labyrinths

Del Doughty, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

Back when I lived in Huntington, Indiana, I used to ride my bike past the cornfields and up the hill to Our Lady of Victory convent to walk its labyrinth. It was an 11-circuit, brick-lined path laid into the grass, and at the center was a massive, ancient oak. If you looked into a nook on one of the lower branches, you would find a pair of plain, golden rings. Every time I visited, they were there. You might think that someone would take them after a while, but I think that visitors respected that space as sacred and, beyond that, were probably intrigued by the story lurking behind those rings. Would someone someday return there, walk the labyrinth, find the rings they had left long ago and then re-unite with a loved one? I kind of hoped so.