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To Holland and to New Harmony: Robert Dale Owen's Travel Journal

Josephine M. Elliott (editor)

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Josephine M. Elliott (editor) : To Holland and to New Harmony: Robert Dale Owen's Travel Journal before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Holland and to New Harmony: Robert Dale Owen's Travel Journal:

B/w illustrations, 296pp, index. Robert Dale Owen was the oldest son of Robert Owen, the philanthropist and pioneer in the co-operative movement, and Anne Caroline Dale Owen. He was born November 7, 1801 in Glasgow and spent his childhood in Braxfield, the Owen family home outside New Lanark where his father's cotton mills were located.

"Robert Owen sailed to America on October 23, 1824, to negotiate the purchase of Harmonie (New Harmony) as the site for his experiment in communal living. The property, located on the Wabash River in Posey County, southwestern Indiana, included a thriving village built by the Harmonists, or Rappites, a sectarian society of Wurtemberg peasants, so-called after the founder, George Rapp, and twenty thousand acres of land...The period chronicled in the present journal begins on May 25, 1825, during his father's absence, and extends to January 23, 1826, the day Robert Dale arrived in New Harmony, having accompanied his father on the latter's second journey to America. During June 1825, Robert Dale travelled to Holland where he took an extended trip in company with an old schoolmate to study the Dutch co-operative communities." In September 1825 he accompanied his father to New York, then to Philadelphia, Pittsburg where they purchased a keelboat and journeyed down the Ohio River to Mount Vernon, Indiana.

Unpublished in its entirety until this book, the journal was used as a primary source for a series of articles in The New-Harmony Gazette entitled 'The Dutch and Their Country'. He seems not to have used the journal in his later writings except in a general way. This book corrects, among other things, the makeup of the party which took the journey on the keelboat