

The LHS Newsletter Archive

BALD EAGLE

Volume Seventeen, Issue Number 1

Originally Published in Lecompton, Kansas : Spring 1991
Digitally Archived August 2006





AMERICA IN 1857

The "New York Times" of November 11, 1990, contained a review by Hugh Brogan of the book, AMERICAN IN 1857, A NATION ON THE BRINK, by Kenneth M. Stampp. The fact that Lecompton was mentioned several times in the article, aroused the interest of Senator Wint Winter, Jr., who sent a copy to the Lecompton Historical Society.

The book proved to be most interesting as it led the reader to believe that the events which occurred during the year 1857 were big contributing factors in the cause of the Civil War. According to this book there were numerous reporters from Eastern cities in Lecompton during the crisis, representing their newspapers, reporting the events, particularly during the Lecompton Constitutional Convention. The debate concerning the admission of the Lecompton Constitution with or without ratification by the people of Kansas, and thus the admission of Kansas to the Union, lasted for months and was carried daily in the newspapers of all the states. Across the United States Lecompton became a household name from Maine to California.

The book detailed the bad judgement of the U.S. Government in handling the problems of the 1857 period and details the events that so aroused both the North and the South that they were important factors which led to the Civil War.

The following article is from the review of Mr. Stampp's book. "Kansas in 1857 was a territory ready to become a state. The urgent question was, should it be admitted to the Union with the

(Continued Column 1, Page 2)

KANSAS TERRITORY: 1857

In Kansas Territory in 1857 there were many elections and governmental meetings. People were extremely polarized in their views concerning slavery, and in their views of the slavery question in new states to be admitted to the Union. Political parties were in flux. A partial listing of elections and conventions, mostly in 1857, follows:

- 1855 October 23 to November 11. Topeka Constitution framed by Free-Staters.
- 1857 January 6. Topeka Legislature Convened. Prominent members arrested by Pro-Slavery forces, taken to Tecumseh. Legislature adjourned until June 9.
- 1857 January 12. Lecompton Pro-Slavery Convention and Legislature. On February 19 an act was passed to provide for the taking of a census between March 1 and April 1 from which an apportionment of delegates to a Constitutional Convention was to be made by the Governor. It was decided that the Constitutional Convention was to be held in September 1857. Third Monday in June was to see the election of these 60 delegates.
- 1857 June 9 Topeka. Free-Staters meet and resolve to support the Topeka Constitution of October 23, 1855.
- 1857 August 9. Free State election of legislature.
- 1857 August 26 Grasshopper Falls Convention. Free-Staters decide to participate in October elections.
- 1857 September 7. First Lecompton Constitutional Convention adjourned to

(Continued Column 2, Page 2)

proslavery, illdrafted constitution that an unrepresentative handful of extremists had cobbled together in Lecompton, Kan., late in the year? President James Buchanan by insisting on the Lecompton constitution, (and refusing to have the Lecompton Constitution put to the vote of the residents of Kansas Territory for ratification,) split his party and opened the way to disaster. In Mr. Stamp's opinion, his mishandling of the Kansas crisis was the fatal step that made disruption of the Union, and therefore civil war, all but inescapable. The great blunder over the Lecompton Constitution was Buchanan's own work, not that of his Southern friends and colleagues.

One of Mr. Stamp's themes is that in the spring of 1857 the Republic's prospects were blooming. Even the Dred Scott decision, made that year, was not sufficient to revive the passionate disputes of 1856, and although there was a financial crash in the autumn, we now know, if the people of the time did not, that the economy was to make a rapid recovery. In short, Buchanan had to work really hard to wreck things. If, as is only fair, we judge him by the foreseeable consequences of his actions, he must without question be rated the worst American President.

In 40 years of politics, Buchanan did not learn to respect the honest concerns of his opponents, or indeed of anyone but himself and those who agreed with him completely; nor did he ever see that opinions, on their own, are unsafe guides to action. He was a doughface, a Northern man of Southern opinions; and he explicitly blamed the Kansas disturbances not on the handful of proslavery conspirators who began them but on the great mass of antislavery settlers in the territory. So he had no qualms of conscience about trying to override the settlers' democratic rights. He chose to recommend the fraudulent Lecompton Constitution to Congress and in so doing broke his word and split his party (Democratic) beyond recovery. Three years later a Republican victory came, followed by secession and war."

Since the review in the New York Times in November of last year other articles about this new book and its author have appeared in important periodicals. U.S.

News and World Report, January 21, 1991, reports an interview with the author Kenneth Stamp where it was again brought out how the handling of the Lecompton Constitution caused the irreparable split in the Democratic party enabling Lincoln to be elected president, and tearing asunder the Union, South from North, finally causing the Civil War.

Recently the Kansas City Star and the Lawrence Journal-World also carried articles relating to this book.

Sara Walter

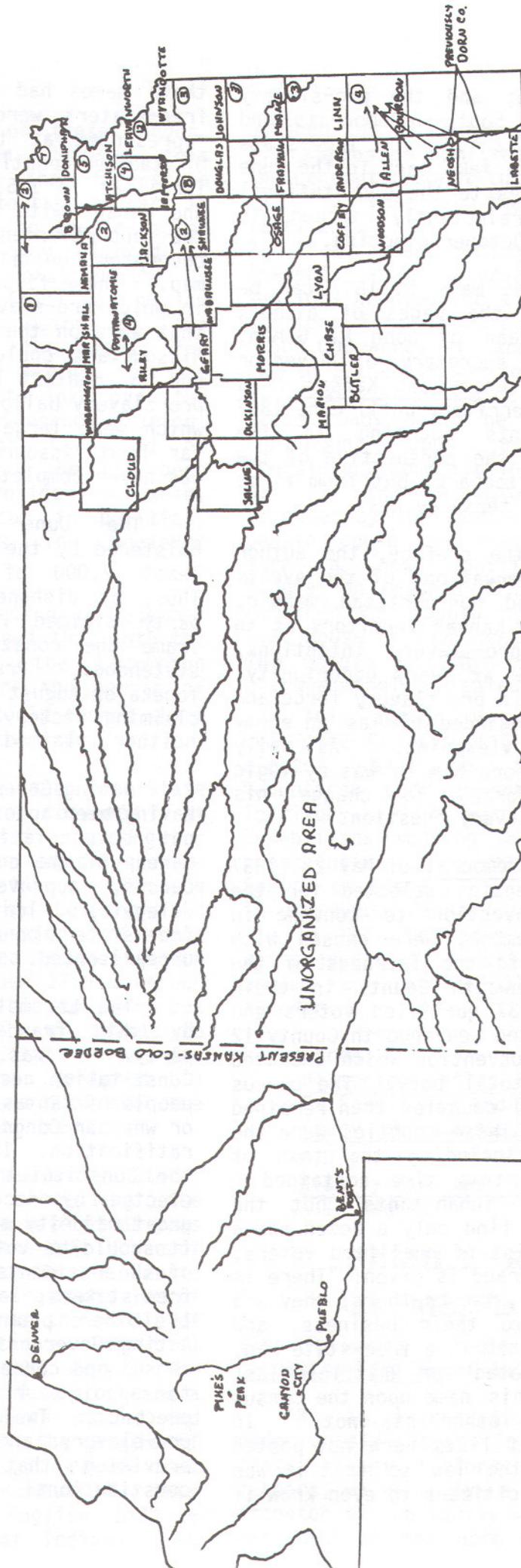
(KANSAS TERRITORY: 1857 - From Page 1)

- the 19th.
- 1857 September 19 to November 3 Lecompton Constitutional Convention. Jim Lane prevented the delegates from meeting. Finally did begin meeting on the 22nd and framed the Lecompton Constitution.
- 1857 October 5. Free-Staters won this election of legislators even though the Oxford vote and McGee County vote were grossly fraudulent.
- 1857 December 2 Lawrence Free-State Convention. It was composed of fairly elected delegates from October 5 election. They re-endorsed the Topeka Constitution of 1855. They asked for the submission of the Lecompton Constitution to the people of Kansas for vote.
- 1857 December 7 Extra Session of Legislature Convened. Supported Topeka Constitution and condemned Lecompton Constitution.
- 1857 December 21. Election to vote on Lecompton Constitution "with slavery" or Lecompton Constitution "without slavery".

The physical violence of previous months had been quelled to a large part by the action of Governor Geary; however, the efforts of the pro-slavery party did not cease, but they then turned to the "means of political management, legislative craft and low cunning."

The October 1857 election to select a new territorial legislature aligned the people in different camps. The opposing parties were a freestate party made up of Republicans, Northern Democrats, and a few

KANSAS TERRITORY IN 1857



NUMBERS IN CIRCLES ARE # OF DELEGATES TO LEIGHTON
 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. OTHER COUNTIES WERE DISFRANCHISED
 BECAUSE CENSUS WAS NOT TAKEN.

Southern Democrats; and the pro-slavery party consisted of Southern Democrats and Southern Whig-Americans. The free-state party had refused to take part in the June election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention, but reluctantly agreed to participate in the October election.

The attitude of many in 1857 can be discovered between the pages of a book written in that year by John H. Gihon, M.D., the private secretary of Governor Geary. The book: Geary and Kansas is a history of Kansas Territory until June 1857 and concerns events occurring in the territory not from the perspective of the Monday Morning Quarterback, but from first hand observation of these events.

According to the preface, the author sets forth his observations of the events in an unbiased and non-partisan manner. John Gihon came to Kansas Territory as an advocate of the pro-slavery intentions, which he made know at every opportunity. He was accepted as a pro-slavery force and the free-staters regarded him as an enemy in philosophical viewpoint. As daily events unfolded before him he was by logic and conscience forced to change his viewpoint on the slavery question.

The Missouri Democrat of May 28, 1857 indicates the delegates selected for the constitutional convention to convene in Lecompton in September, were chosen with some question as to the fairness of the situation. Leavenworth County in their census reported 1837 qualified voters and the Governor allotted Leavenworth County 12 delegates to the convention which amounted to 1/5th of the total body. The census figures for several counties then remained yet to be taken. These counties were the free-state ones, including the town of Lawrence which at this time contained a "goodly number of inhabitants" but the census taker could find only a dozen names to put upon the list of qualified voters. An example of the fraud is given: "There is a firm in that city, two brothers; they are always attending to their business, and together. One of them is a free-state man, while the other voted for Whitfield last fall, and he has his name upon the census lists, while the other has not." In addition the census lists were not posted in accordance to the law so that it was impossible for the citizens to even know if

their names had been included. Thus the free-staters were by various tactics not represented at the Lecompton Convention. Of the 34 counties in existence in Kansas Territory in 1857 only 15 were counted in the census with their populations used in the apportionment of delegates to the Lecompton Constitutional Convention. (See map.) These favored 15 counties were those in which pro-slavery held control or those that were on the Missouri border where the Missourians could cross over to register and 3 months later appear to cast a pro-slavery ballot. The census in counties which were largely free-state or were too far from Missouri for "cross over voters" was never completed.

The June election results were bolstered by the border ruffian vote of at least 7,000 of pro-slavery persuasion. Thus, by dishonest means the pro-slavery party claimed victory and the right to frame the constitution for admission to statehood. Previously an election at Topeka on August 9 had the free-state party claiming victory. Thus, both parties, or neither, claimed rights to govern.

Acting Governor Stanton, only recently having been appointed to that capacity, and not being familiar with the political makeup of the counties not included in the census, approved the apportionment of delegates leaving 19 predominately free-state counties disfranchised and unrepresented.

The Lecompton Constitution was framed by this fraudently elected pro-slavery party. It was unclear if this Lecompton Constitution needed to be submitted to the people of Kansas Territory for ratification or whether Congress could accept it without ratification. It was know nation wide that the Constitution had been framed by those elected by deceit and dishonesty. The great majority of public sentiment was that it should be voted upon by honest election of the residents of Kansas Territory. The free-staters, lead by Charles Robinson and 14 other prominent citizens petitioned Acting Governor Stanton, to conduct a new census and correct the registry lists, and to appoint 4 election judges for each precinct. Two of these judges were to be pro-slavery and 2 free-state with the provision that each delegate to the constitutional convention needed the

approval of at least 3 of these judges. Acting Governor Stanton refused this proposal, thus uniting the free-state voters in their decision to take no part in the election of delegates to the Lecompton Constitution. Instead they planned to defeat the Lecompton Constitution by refusing to ratify it. There was no law providing for the submission of the proposed constitution to the people for ratification but Governor Walker, who had on May 25, 1857 arrived to take over the governorship from Acting Governor Stanton, felt without doubt that it would be submitted to the people. He had been promised this action by President Buchanan. But as events often occur in politics, Buchanan switched ideas for whatever reasons.

The free-state Convention of December 2, 1857 at Lawrence resolved that both the Topeka Constitution and the Lecompton Constitution be put before the people of Kansas Territory so they could choose which should become the law of the land.

On December 7, 1857 the Free-State Territorial Legislature convened at Lecompton and passed an Act providing for submission of the Lecompton Constitution to the people for ratification. Because Secretary Stanton as Acting Governor had called this extra session of the legislature, he was removed from office on December 16th. On December 17th Governor Walker, finding it impossible to carry out his pledges to the people of Kansas to submit the Lecompton Constitution for ratification in good faith, resigned his office. James William Denver took over the Governorship on December 21, 1857.

On February 2, 1858 the United States Senate passed a bill accepting the Lecompton Constitution by a vote of 32 yeas to 25 nays. On March 23 the U.S. House of Representatives substituted for the Senate Bill a bill calling for the resubmission of the Lecompton Constitution to the people of Kansas under a fair election. This bill passed by 120 yeas and 112 nays. The Senate refused this substitute bill and a new bill was reported which passed and provided a proposition for the people of Kansas to accept a bribe to persuade them to ratify the Lecompton Constitution. This bill was known as the English bill - proposed by Mr. English of Indiana. It

offered the following conditions:

1. Kansas be admitted to the Union under the Lecompton Constitution if it received a majority vote of the people of Kansas Territory.

2. If accepted, Sections 16 and 36 in each township would be granted for schools; 72 sections granted for a State University, 10 sections for public buildings (a total of 5,500,000 acres of land); all salt springs (up to 12) and 6 sections with each spring; 5% of all public lands for construction of State roads would be granted. This was contingent upon acceptance of the Pro-slavery constitution!

3. If the Lecompton Constitution was rejected by the people of Kansas, then the people could not elect new delegates to form a new constitution until the population reached 93,560 (the number then required for appointing one member to the U.S. House of Representatives).

The people of Kansas on August 2, 1858 overwhelmingly defeated this proposal.

This action opened the way for the Wyandotte Constitution framed by delegates elected by the recently organized Republican and Democratic parties of the Territory. There were 17 Democrats and 35 Republicans working together to form this constitution which was passed in the U.S. Senate on January 21, 1861 by 36 to 16 and in the House January 28, 1861 by a vote of 119 to 42. On January 29, 1861 the bill was signed by President Buchanan and Kansas became a State. The Union was torn asunder.

Ellen Duncan

References:

- Historical Atlas of Kansas, by Homer E. Socolofsky and Hubert Self.
Geary and Kansas, by John H. Gihon, M.D.
History of the State of Kansas, by A.T. Andreas.

FAMILY REUNION at Morris Home

(The following article was taken from the Lecompton Monitor of August 27, 1885.

As an introduction to the subject under consideration, in order to place the facts clearly before the minds of our readers, we will give a short sketch of the ancestor of the family whose annual meeting was held at the home of Mr. G.W. Morris

last Thursday.

Abraham Williams of Plane township, Franklin County, Ohio was one of the pioneer settlers of central Ohio and was always regarded as one of its most substantial citizens. He was not wanting illustrious ancestry, as his great grandfather was none other than the renowned Roger Williams, the first advocate of religious liberty in America and the founder of the first Baptist church on this side of the ocean.

He (Abraham Williams) voted with the Whig party until the organization of the Republican party in 1856, after which he continued to vote with that party till his death in 1872. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and for many

of Baldwin; Rev. W.H. and Rose Sweet of Baldwin; Mary E. Kerns of Thayer, Kansas; J.F. Williams of Lawrence; J.T. Williams of Harlem, Ohio; Ida Johnston of New Albany, Ohio; Ollie Ackerson of Wyandotte, Kansas; Rev. W.L. & Anna Morris of Wakarusa, Kansas; Lora L. Gentry of Lawrence; Sedon Ewing of Wichita, and Rev. J.M. Hillbish of Clinton, Kansas. Children: Etta, Minnie & Ella Kerns; Eunice, Earl & Mary Clapham; Bertha, Paul, Willie & Emma Sweet; Nellie Smart, Clara Morris, and Chas. E. Morris.

The following letter from a relative in the East was received and read by the assembled friends: Ghanna, Aug. 13th, 85
Dear Aunt and Uncle,

You will easily comprehend that among the friends who remain in Ohio, there are many lingering longings to be present with



**Morris
Home**

years held the office of justice of the peace.

There were born to Mr. Williams fifteen children, ten sons and five daughters, ten of whom, seven sons and three daughters, are still living. About a week previous to the date given, members of the family began to arrive until at the roll call Thursday forty-three were found present. The following is the list: Geo. & Sarah Morris of Lecompton; Rev. D. & Elizabeth Horlocker of Columbus, Ohio; Mary Williams of Harlem, Ohio; Mollie Williams of Centerville, Ohio; Frank Williams of Sunbury, Ohio; Colonel A.C. Williams of Oswego, Kansas; George & Josephine Ackerson of Wyandotte, Kansas; David and Mary Barker of Leavenworth; W.H. & Sallie Morris of Lecompton; Howard and Alice Smart of Topeka; J.H. & Gusta Clapham

you at your home in the beautiful west, and many regrets that combination of circumstances have so shaped events in the last year that many of us are obliged to remain at home--some from physical inability, and others from mental indisposition, and still others from pecuniary disability. But, be assured that, whatever is or has been the hindering cause, we each and all turn our eyes toward the glorious sunset as each day's close brings us another day nearer the time of the reunion, and with a yearning prayer for Aunt Sarah and the safety of those who are to represent us at your home, we invariably wish, perhaps inaudibly, that we might be with you.

There is a lasting link that binds

human hearts together, even though weary miles intervene. This we all possess in common, and this we aim to strengthen as year by year we meet in our family gatherings. How sad that as a family we are so scattered that we may not all be together once a year. But then there is comfort in the thought that all humanity possesses a common brotherhood that makes it possible for us to look beyond the narrower bonds of family relationship in a broader one that encompasses all humanity and lays claim upon Deity as the father of us all.

Time makes its impress from year to year, marking upon our tablets the records of those who have finished their career. It is with sad, sad feeling that I remember dear Aunt Jane. She was far away, yearning for the consolation that should flow from fraternity. Since our last meeting she has gone to join the innumerable host that has passed on to the life beyond. Is there one of us who does not pray that in the Father's house there may be a mansion where the heavy laden, who like she in this life have so little of gladness and joy, may reap bliss in the ages to come.

Then again when we were least expecting it, the summons came to cousin Henry, and life and activity went out as by the snapping of the main spring. How full of suggestion is such a withdrawal from life. To him it was an expected event; but to us, who knew not of the warning voice which his own nature heard and understood, it was as the bursting of the tempest in the midst of a cloudless sky. Often he has been at your home and shared your hospitality. Is it not possible that he with the many whom you have loved in the past, may be with you as invisible guests?

It seems to me that you should at this reunion, organize in tangible shape with proper officers in order that we may have more system, and keep a thorough record of the family and minutes of our reunions.

We have thought that it would be a pleasure for those of us who could not visit you to at least celebrate the day in visiting among ourselves, and so have decided to meet at the same grove that we used last year at Sunbury and spend the day as pleasantly as we can. The scenery will be a pleasant reminder to us of you, as you

were present with us last year; and it will not be hard even for a dull imagination to bring you up in mind as you were then, and you may have the satisfaction of knowing how and where we are spending the day.

With much love to all, and many good wishes for your happiness not only during the stay of the friends at your place, but for all time to come. I as ever your niece.
Carrie Moore

No place in this vicinity is better fitted for an out door picnic than the little grove in Mr. Morris' yard. The ground slopes from the door-step to the highway in front, and the entire yard is shaded by well trimmed locust trees and, in addition to other attractions for a tired man, is provided with a number of rustic seats and hammocks. A table about thirty feet long had been build near the house, and on this were sacrificed the good things which are produced on Mr. Morris' farm in such great abundance. Fine apples and melons were brought and the culinary department was by no means behind the rest, and it might be said right here, that some of the Williams or Morris descendants know how to cook, as the display of meats, cakes and goodies of all kinds and descriptions testified.

The day was spent in social conversation and in recalling memories of the past; many of which were pleasant, but a few tinged with sorrow. During the past year there were three deaths in the family and five births. In looking over a large family, and noting the fact that some pass away yearly, the shortness of time and the certainty of eternity are impressed upon our minds, and we look forward with more earnest longings to the great reunion when ties will be formed and broken no more.

About 2 P.M. we arrived upon the grounds and made the acquaintance of a number of the family, and spent a very pleasant afternoon with them. In addition to the guests that were of the family, we noticed Mr. and Mrs. Coates Leamer, Mr. T.W. Pate, Mrs. Layman, Mr. & Mrs. Hafer, and others who live in the vicinity.

Mr. Morris came to this country (meaning the Lecompton area) in 1857, and settled on Geo. Storm's farm north of the site of the Glenn School House. In 1861 he



moved to the farm of Mr. Zinn on the west fork of Coon Creek, and in 1862, he built a log house on the farm he now owns and moved into it. This farm he has improved until he has a beautiful home, and a pleasant place to pass the time of old age. Mr. Morris is one of our oldest and most substantial citizens and in the time he has lived in the West has acquired a large circle of warm friends. We hope that he and his estimable wife may live to enjoy many a family reunion and may each one be as happy as the one last Thursday.

105 YEARS LATER

A celebration honoring the 90th birthday of Wilma Scott Morris was held on June 24th, 1990. It really was about a week long celebration with relatives coming in from every direction. In celebration of her birthday, she was honored with an open house and reception at her home in Lecompton. The reception was decorated with the color scheme of pink and white. A two-tiered cake decorated in the same color scheme was made by her daughter, Nancy. Approximately 225 people attended.

In the evening, a buffett dinner was served to the guests and families of those near and dear to Wilma. The meal was prepared by her children and grandchildren. So, once again, as we have done so many times in the past, we gathered at the Howard and Wilma Morris home West of Lecompton for s special celebration. Over the years we have certainly added a "few" to the ancestry of the Morris. The descendants of Howard and Wilma Morris include: Virginia Hathaway of Perry, Georgia; William Morris, deceased; Ann and Bob Smith of Kansas City; Carol and Kenneth Kibbee; Nancy and Len Howard, Bob and Mary Lou Morris, Bob and Mary Sue Christman; Mike, David & Jim Hathaway; Barbara and Scott Morris; Chuck Kellogg; Kathy Dehoff; Cheryl Mohler; Roger and Ray Kibbee; Brenda Hastert; Judy and Jennifer Kibbee; Greg, Steve & David Howard; Tim, Jeff & Stewart Morris; Kim Stewart; Vicky Morino; Tanya Morris; Darin, Brad & Todd Christman; and 32 great grandchildren.

We figured a total of 22,000 miles were travelled to celebrate this day and what a day it was for us: Family, Good Food, Friends, and Our Mother - who could ask for more?

Mary Sue Christman

Organizations In 1958

The Lecompton community has always had numerous governmental, civic and fraternal organizations for the interested and the willing. The officers in the different Lecompton organizations in 1958 are believed to be as follows:

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor	George Bahnmaier
President	Elton (Bill) Dark
Water	E.J. Robison
Streets	Earl Sanford
Lights	Sylvester Rothwell
City Hall & Park	Jerry Holloway
City Clerk	Glenn Pierce
City Treasurer	Gladys Holloway

LECOMPTON HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Clerk	E.J. Robison
Director	Bill Kenny
Treasurer	Frank Walter

LECOMPTON GRADE SCHOOL BOARD

Director	Max McClure
Clerk	William Leslie
Treasurer	Pete Bahnmaier
Member	John Doane
Member	Robert Norwood

EVANGELICAL U.B. CHURCH

Reverend	Lybran Endsley
Superintendent	Paul Penny
Secretary	Esther Paslay
Financial Secretary	Reba Banks
Treasurer	Pete Bahnmaier
Children's Supt.	Edna Bahnmaier
Trustees Chrm.	Herman Banks

V. F. W.

Commander	Duane Childes
Secretary	Jerry Holloway

MASONIC LODGE

Master	Clarence Grandstaff
Secretary	Elton (Bill) Dark

REBEKAH LODGE

Noble Grand	Doris Sindt
Vice Grand	Mildred Kenny
Secretary	Ruth Bahnmaier
Treasurer	Grace Dark

I.O.O.F. LODGE

Noble Grand
Secretary
Treasurer

Harold Keating
Joe Laque
Ed McClanahan

LIONS CLUB

President
Secretary
Treasurer

Lester Stauffer
John Salisbury
Bob Dark

SCOUTS

Scout Master
Assistant Master

Joe Stauffer
Lester Stauffer

SUNSHINE CLUB

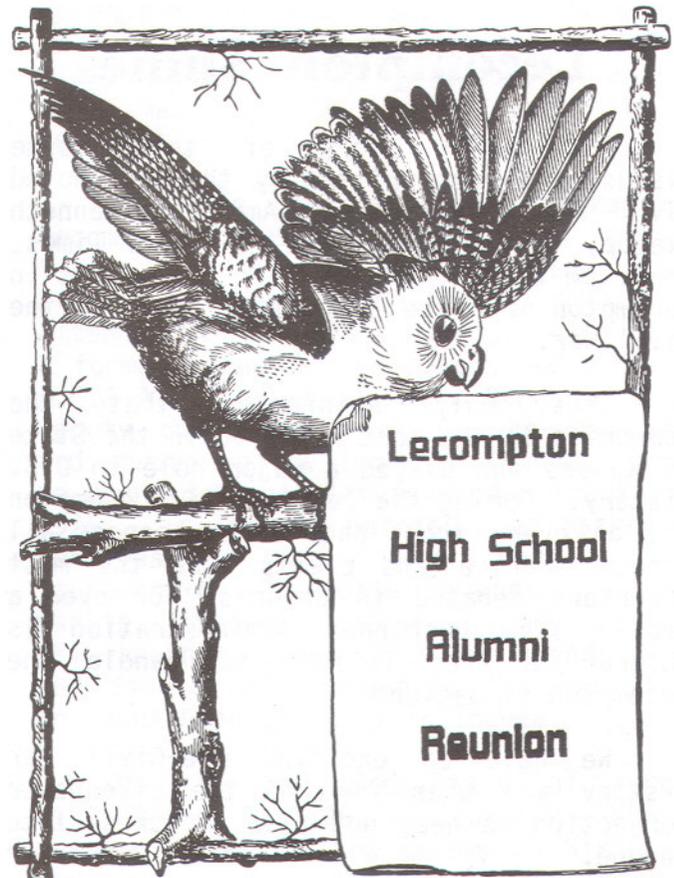
President
V. President
Secretary
Treasurer

Maxine Dark
Laura McAlexander
Florence Wingfield
Wilma Fleming

Thanks

We are very thankful to the following people who have placed items in Lane University Museum or helped in some other way:

1. Winter History by A.K. & Charlene Winter.
2. Bellows family photos and other historical items by Phyllis Martin.
3. Eisenhower book and plate by Fay Tally.
4. One-Half Dime by Jim Copenbarger found at Camp Sackett.
5. Antique weapon by Elaine Daniels.
6. Family photo by Grace Kellogg Melton.
7. Big Springs Church history from the Big Springs United Methodist Church by Grace Piasecki.
8. WW I gas mask, helmet, telescope and other items that belonged to Clarence Smith by Ed Smith.
9. Matching grant from Mobil Oil Company through the efforts of Clare J. Coleman.
10. Bob Morris for cleaning the parking lot.
11. Mae Holderman and Sally Wright for work on the 1992 budget.
12. Curators Margaurite Bowman, Arloene & George Simmons, Opal Goodrick, Dorothy Shaner, Jeri Skinner, David & Darlene Paslay, and Helen Norwood.
13. Membership Chairman Iona Spencer.
14. All who have helped A.K. & Charlene Winter with the tours.
15. Stuart Reynolds and the City of Lecompton for the Candy Cane Christmas decorations on the telephone poles around Lecompton.
16. Campfire organization for decorating the park.
Paul Bahnmaier



The Lecompton Alumni Banquet will be May 25th. The honored classes will be those of 1941 and 1971.

Members of the 1941 Class of Lecompton High School are: Harold Crady, Maxine Glenn Dark Bisel, Charles Sulzen, Betty Hodson Rogers, Lura Holloway McAlexander, Phyllis Martin, Warren Hartman, Opal Lasswell Goodrick, Dale Glenn, Harry Carr Jr., Harold Bertschinger, and Charles Anderson.

Members of the 1971 Class are: Sally Beckwith Yost, Cheryl Kibbee Mohler, Janice McAlexander, David Fuston, Denny Delge, Don Bahnmaier, Lloyd Neuschafer, Ken Johnson, Ricky Weeks, and Phil Hubert.

Paul Bahnmaier

NEXT MEETING

The next historical society meeting will be Thursday March 14th. A covered dish dinner will start at 6:30 pm followed by the meeting at 7:30 pm. The program will be a slide presentation about Israel given by Margaret and Don Fuston.

Lecompton Shines

The cover story of this issue discussed a book written by the most noted civil war historian in America, Kenneth Stampp, according to the New York Times. The same article states that the events in Lecompton were the single most cause of the Civil War.

This only reinforces that the community is the most historic in the State of Kansas and played a major role in U.S. history. During the year of 1857 Lecompton was on every front page of newspapers all across America and events were the most important debated in Congress for over a year. The Buchanan Administration is judged for its failure to handle the Lecompton situation.

We have an exciting pre-Civil War history and when you add the Eisenhower connection we need not take a back seat to anyone.
Paul Bahnmaier

TERRITORIAL DAY WILL BE SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1991. PLAN TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.

Christmas Vespers

The Christmas Vespers and Open House was held December 2, 1990 with 180 people in attendance. Thanks to the following people who helped: Arolene and George Simmons, Rose and Margaret Wulfkuhle, Virginia Wulfkuhle, Jeff Goodrick, Jeff and Lisa Morgan, Jennifer Flanner, Helen Norwood, Mae Norwood, Louise Norwood, Margaret Bowman, David and Darlene Paslay, Opal Goodrick, Mae and Wally Holderman, Maxine and Ben Bissel, Diane and Ron Mein, Ralph Davis, Denzil and Warren Gibbens, Dorothy Shaner, Iona Spencer, Sherri Neil, and Rich and Karen McConnell.

A special thanks goes to David Lee Paslay for cutting the 14 foot tree from Sara Walter's farm. Instrumental music was provided by Cindy Daniels, Frances Sanford, and Phil Wizer. Vocal music was by the 20-voice Community Singers under the direction of Kim Stewart. It was a particularly fine program. Paul Bahnmaier



Christmas Tree Ornaments

We hope you will consider donating a Christmas ornament for the tree next year. Forty individuals or families donated ornaments this year. We hope to expand the number greatly in the years to come. Make plans now to make your ornament for this "new" Lecompton Historical Society Christmas tradition.

Paul Bahnmaier

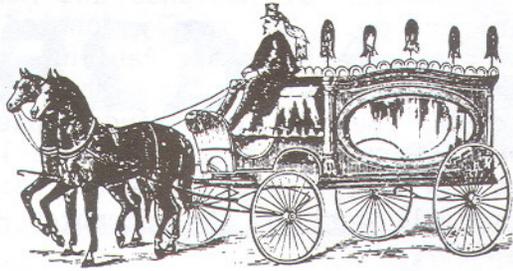


We want to thank our members for renewing their memberships so quickly. It is really appreciated, as it makes our job a lot easier when they come in on time. Our membership is growing. We can make a better report in our next issue, as we should have all our memberships in by then.

The new life members are: Irma Kellogg Wallace, Chris Miller, Harry Wm. "Bill" McCall and his wife Eileen B. (O'Neill) McCall. Our new memorial membership is Madge (McCall) Strand by daughter Betty Bergen.

Iona Spencer

Obituaries



Lecompton Historical Society. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery at Lecompton. He always spoke highly of Lecompton and had many memories of early days in our community.

Theodore J. Hall 81 Topeka died December 5, 1990 in Topeka. He was born March 29, 1909 at Richland, the son of Hubert E. and Irene Kreipe Hall. He attended Highland Park High School. He was a former member of Lecompton Lodge No. 420 A.F. & A.M. and Kansas Farm Bureau. He was deputy county assessor for several years and served on the Tecumseh Township Board. He married Minnie Kampschroeder who died in 1975. In 1977 he married Opal Matney who survives. Other survivors include stepdaughter Charlotte Davenport, stepson Marvin, sisters Gertrude Finley and Lois Uhl, brother George Uhl, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Burial was in Mount Hope Cemetery in Topeka.

Louis W. Crady 72 Crete, Illinois died December 16, 1990 at Crete. He was born September 30, 1918 in Lecompton, the son of Louis Wesly and Margaret Hemphill Crady. He attended schools in Lecompton and graduated from Lecompton High School. He worked for General Electric in Chicago and Chicago Heights for 40 years until he retired in 1984. He served in the U.S. Army during W.W. II and was a member of the Crete Amvets Post No. 84 and the Chicago Heights Veterans of Foreign Wars No. 2825. He married Vivian Goodrich who survives. Other survivors include son Monte, brother Harold, sister Betty Stauffer, and one grandchild. Memorials were to the

Mrs. Laura T. Endacott 87 of Lawrence died January 26, 1991 at Lawrence. She was a life member of the Lecompton Historical Society. She was born the daughter of Frank Emanuel and Alida Larson Lundquist on October 18, 1903 at Lindsborg. She was a graduate of Trinity Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. She helped found

THE LECOMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Lecompton, Kansas 66050 is a non-profit corporation for the preservation of historical sites. We are eager for continued membership and new members!

Individual membership is \$3 per year, from December to December, while couples membership is \$5. Life membership is \$50 per individual. Contributions are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to the Lecompton Historical Society, and mailed to Mrs. Iona Spencer, R.R. #1, Lecompton, Kansas 66050.

* * * * * Please Clip And Mail With Your Check * * * * *

- _____ \$3 Annual Individual Membership
- _____ \$5 Annual Household Membership
- _____ \$50 Individual Life or Memorial Membership
- _____ Other Contribution \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

