

The LHS Newsletter Archive

BALD EAGLE

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BACK



TABLE

VOL. 17 NO. 2

LECOMPTON, KANSAS

SUMMER 1991

The Isaac Shirley Family

THE SHIRLEY HOUSE
AS IT APPEARED SPRING 1983



The Shirley family was of English lineage. Isaac Shirley was born in Tennessee in 1805 and his wife Elizabeth Cox in 1809. In the early settlement of Illinois, they moved to Shelby County, where seven of their children were born, Wilburn, William, Martha, Hannah, John, Nancy and George W. Isaac was made aware of cheap land in Missouri and moved to Lynn county where two more children were born, Mary Elizabeth, 1849 and Franklin Pierce 1854. Two of these children died young, John M. and George W. and are buried in the Shirley cemetery at Lecompton. Isaac was an avid Free State proponent, so when trouble loomed between the North and South, they sold their farm and went to Kansas Territory where they pre-empted 160 acres near the Kansas River, about 2 1/2 miles west of the present town of Lecompton. As he was an out-spoken abolitionist, on numerous occasions, for his personal safety, he was compelled to hide in brush heaps to avoid ill treatment by the border ruffians.

In 1863 when Quantrill and his men sacked Lawrence, the people near the Shirley farm were warned as to what was happening and rushed to the Glenn farm to ask for help, as at that time nearly every able-bodied man and boy were away from home, fighting in the campaign against General Price's confederate raiders in the Battle of the Blue. Old Mr. Glenn had them take his best team of horses to the nearby creek, and hide them in the brush. The cows were then driven to the woods and scattered. He suggested that all the people go to the corn field and brush to hide. They spent the entire day there, singing hymns and conjecturing what they'd do if Quantrill came. One woman brought her valuables with her in an old copper pot, this she buried in the presence of others, so that if she were killed, others would know its location. They stayed hidden until eleven o'clock that night, with the little ones hungry and crying and everyone miserable. Finally it was suggested that they go back to the house as they did not think Quantrill would kill

them all. The next morning a man rode out from Lecompton and told them Quantrill had left. That same day some of the men who had been fighting Price, returned home.

Another time Alex Glenn was working at the Isaac Shirley farm cutting wood near the river, when Isaac's little son and his dog came to the timber to play near where he was working. The boy had a little tin whistle. While he was busy and the dog and the boy nearby, he heard what he thought to be Missourian raiders coming up the river bank. Alex's first concern was for the boy who suddenly blew his whistle. One of the raiders upon hearing the whistle yelled, "Let's get out of here, that's Jim Lane and his men!" They left and Alex was saved by a boy and his whistle.

Isaac and Elizabeth stayed on the farm with their children. After Isaac's death in 1858, as the children became mature, they left the area with the exceptions of Mary Elizabeth and Franklin Pierce. They remained on the farm and later cared for their mother who became ill, until her death in 1876.

Franklin Pierce Shirley married Laura Nelson Pate, who had come from Virginia to Kansas in 1877. She attended Lane University, was converted in the old chapel, and joined the United Brethren Church. The couple lived on the Shirley farm as the second generation. They had four sons, William Leonard, John Franklin, Russell, and Elmer. William Leonard died at age 16. Russell and John Franklin (Frank) continued living on the family farm, and Elmer moved to Texas. Frank and Russell cared for their mother until her death in 1929.

Frank graduated from Lecompton High School in 1916 and was known as a remarkable student with a keen intellect. He was a member of the Masonic lodge and was a 14th degree Scottish Rite Mason. He was a diabetic and died in 1930. His father (Franklin Pierce) died in 1938.

Russell served in the army in World War I, and upon returning from overseas, continued to live on the family farm as the third generation until he died in 1957.

Elmer was the only survivor of the immediate family and was still in Texas, where he had married and had two children, Robert and Laura.

Wilburn Shirley, the oldest son of Isaac Shirley, was born in Illinois. In 1849. He became interested in the discovery of gold in the west, and joined a train with his ox team and went to California. There he mined gold for two years, and was successful. He decided to return home with his gleanings.

In 1852 Wilburn Shirley came to Eastern Kansas on horse-back, spent some time prospecting, and being favorably impressed with the country, he went back to Missouri, sold his real estate and moved his family to a place west of Lecompton,



THE SHIRLEY CEMETERY
WITH FAMILY HOUSE IN BACKGROUND

near his father (Isaac Shirley). He was a Free State man and a radical abolitionist. As a member of the State Militia, he participated in the conflicts incident to Price's raid, as did many Lecompton area people. He had a very successful farming operation going, but his cattle would frequently swim the Kansas River, to pasture on the north side and eat the grass there. As a result, he sold his 160 acres he had preempted and located in Jefferson county across the river from the previous farm. There he prospered in his farm operation and lived on that farm the rest of his life, rearing ten children.

After Russell died, the Isaac Shirley rock house remained vacant and is now in a state of ruins. The nearby cemetery to the east of the house, contains the graves of Isaac Shirley (1858), son John (1855), son George W. (1864) and Martha Prather, wife of E. Prather. The Local Watch committee watches over the area to be sure it is not molested.



THE SHIRLEY HOUSE
ON A FOGGY MORNING IN APRIL 1991

The Shirleys of Lecompton were a well respected family; however, in their background there was one distant relative that was not so respected: Belle Starr. Belle's life extended from 1848 to 1889. The most charitable statement to make about her is that her fame exceeded her reputation.

Belle Starr's traceable connection to the Shirleys begins with Samuel Shirley who lived in Virginia and had son John in 1794. Mrs. Shirley died soon thereafter, and Samuel moved to Tennessee with the boy. There he remarried and had three more sons. John, because of his behavior was considered the black sheep of the family, and later had little contact with them.

John Shirley married Elizabeth Hatfield, who was related to the feuding Hatfields and McCoys. They migrated to Iowa and later to the southwest slopes of the Ozarks in Missouri. They filed a

patent of 800 acres of land and prospered there. They had five children, Preston, Charlotte A., John Allison (Bud), Myra Maybelle (Belle Starr) and Edward Benton. They were considered wealthy.

John Shirley sold the farm and moved to Carthage, Missouri, where he built a hotel, and where the family lived. Belle liked to pose as the little rich girl, and attended a private school where she obtained a fine education in languages, reading, spelling, arithmetic and music. She was bright and intelligent, but would fight anyone, boy or girl that she quarreled with. Two interests obsessed her, horses and the outdoors. She was an excellent rider and was taught to shoot both the rifle and pistol by her brother Bud.

The dispute of the North and South over the slavery question caused a great deal of friction in Missouri, soon there were numerous "bushwackers" who were marauding in both Kansas and Missouri, and the Shirley family became involved. The father, John, encouraged his son Bud to join one of the groups. Some infamous leaders were the James brothers, Quantrill, and the Youngers. Bud's gang needed information concerning the movements of some federal officers nearby, and Belle offered to spy for them. As she was riding through Newtonia, Missouri, on her way home to warn Bud that the federal people were going to their parents home to pick him up, the marshals saw and arrested her. They kept her for half an hour, then freed her. She immediately went to a nearby cherry tree, chose three sprouts for whips, sprang on her horse, took off across country, jumping fences and ditches and arrived home in time to warn her brother to leave - which he did. When the officers arrived she dropped a proper curtsy and coyly told them that her brother had left a half hour before. However in 1864 he (Bud Shirley) was caught with other outlaws and was killed. When Belle and her father went to get the corpse, she was handed his guns which she aimed at the officers and started trying to shoot them. Fortunately, they were empty. Her father jumped into the wagon, whipped the horses as Belle screamed at them, "You blue bellies will pay for this."

After many raids on Carthage, John's

father in 1864 sold the hotel, loaded his family and belongings into two Conestoga wagons, and with Belle driving one, headed for Texas. They chose to settle just south of Dallas and thereafter made anyone from Missouri welcome in their home. Cole Younger and his brothers robbed a Missouri Savings bank and escaped to Texas. For a while they stayed with the Shirleys and Cole became enamored of Belle, who later had a child she named Pearl Younger.

In 1866 Belle married James Reed an old family friend from Missouri. The Reeds had come after the civil war, but they soon moved back to Missouri and Belle went for a time too. Reed later got involved in some trouble north of Paris, Texas and was killed by a deputy sheriff in August 1874.

Belle who had moved back to Texas, decided in 1878 to sell her farm and go to Missouri to visit the Reeds again. While there she developed a relationship with Bruce Younger. After a short period he left, but she followed him, trailing him to Baxter Springs, Kansas, where she purchased a marriage license, hired a preacher and threatening to "blow his brains out" married him at gunpoint. After the ceremony, Bruce slipped away and Belle never saw him again.

In 1880 she married Sam Starr, a full blooded Cherokee Indian. She was tried as a leader of a band of horse thieves in 1883 and was sentenced to six months in a Federal penitentiary. She was again arrested in 1886 but the charges were dropped.

One lovely day in 1889, she decided to go for a ride on her horse alone. As she rode along, someone concealed in a tree, shot her in the back of the head and she died. Her supposed assassin was a man who had rented farm land from her and when she refused to rent it to him again, he became angry and threatened her. He was tried and freed from lack of evidence.

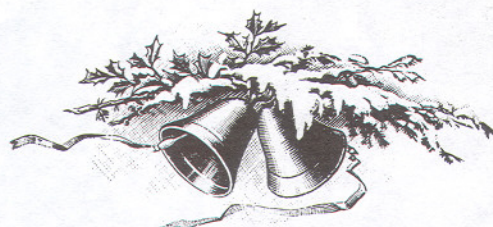
Belle was buried in front of her cedar cabin overlooking Younger Bend and the Canadian River Valley on February 6, 1889. There are so many conflicting stories about Belle Starr, that it is difficult to decide which is the correct one. As a result, the foregoing account was concocted from several sources to illustrate the type of

life Belle lived, but may not be exactly as it happened.

Sara Walter, Writer
Iona Spencer, Researcher

References:

1. Banning, W.B. (History of Martha Duncan) December 9, 1934
2. Lawrence. Journal World, Lawrence, Kansas, July 18, 1930 and September 5, 1937
3. Jefferson, Jackson, and Pottawatomie County Biographical Album, Chapman Brothers, 1885, pages 735-736 & 712-713
4. Shirley, Glenn, Belle Starr and Her Times, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 1982
5. Shirley Family Records and census records



Christmas Ornaments

The following individuals or families have donated ornaments this past year. We hope to expand this number greatly in the years to come. Make plans now to make your ornament for this "new" Christmas Tree tradition:

Maxine & Ben Bisel, C.C. & Bessie Cranwell, Harold & Margaret Jasperson, Vicki Roberts, Marie & Louis Traxler, Jeri Skinner, Chuck & Sally Wright, Ivan & Louise Glenn, Denzel & Warren Gibbens, Mae Norwood, Marguerite Bowman, Lavina Hanna, Joyce & Darwin Behlke, Paul Bahnmaier, Elsie Wizer, David & Darlene Paslay, Levona Carter, Mae & Wally Holderman, Helen Norwood, Charlene & A.K. Winter, Margaret & Ross Wulfkuhle, Wilma Tibbs, Ruth Ice, Bill & Marcella Anderson, Dutch & Ann Groh, Louise Norwood, Denna Shirar, Carolyn Helmer, Mary Brooks, Joy & Don Flanner, George & Arloene Simmons, Greg & Carol Howard, Corrine Childs for Wilma Fleming, Craig, Sherie, Stephanie & Lindsey Neill, Bob & Levona Morey, Opal Goodrick, Robert & Marian Goodrick, Robert Goodrick children (Jonathan, Benjamin, Christopher, and Jessica), Marlene Hackathorn, and Phylis Martin.

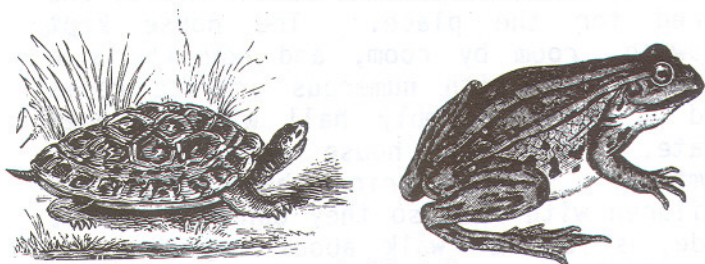
Paul Bahnmaier

TERRITORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES

JUNE 29, 1991
SATURDAY

8:00 A.M.
BALL TOURNAMENT
MUD VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT
Contact Judy Kibbee.

8:30 A.M.
FROG & TURTLE RACES



9:00 A.M.
HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT
LANE MUSEUM OPENS

10:00 A.M.
CHURCH HISTORICAL EXHIBIT
The Lecompton United Methodist Church
unveils a historical exhibit.

10:30 A.M.
JUDGING OF PARADE ENTRIES

11:00 A.M.
PARADE
Contact Gary Merritt. There will be a first place prize of \$50 and a second place prize of \$25 for the best judged floats. The parade will follow a patriotic theme to honor veterans of Desert Storm, Vietnam, Korea, World War II, and World War I. We hope you will be in the parade. Children's prizes of \$20, \$15, \$10, and \$5 will also be awarded.



11:00 A.M.
CHURCH DINNER

This will be served at the Lecompton United Methodist Church.

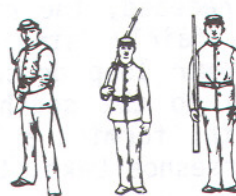
1:00 P.M.
CHILDREN'S CONTESTS

This series of games and contests will likely last until about 3:00 p.m.

3:00 P.M.
RECITAL BY PHIL WIZER

4:00 P.M.
PRELUDE TO CIVIL WAR

This is a theatrical presentation of three characters from the Lecompton statehood struggle.



5:00 P.M.
BINGO
ICE CREAM SOCIAL
SPENCER FAMILY COUNTRY MUSIC

6:00 P.M.
PERRY-LECOMPTON HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND



7:00 P.M.
TALENT SHOW

Contact Vicki Mallonee to enter the amateur talent show (887-6353). There will be prizes of \$50, \$35, \$25, and \$15.

9:00 P.M.
STREET DANCE
FEATURING THE NO WARE BAND
The street dance will run until midnight.

Sunday, June 30th the Lecompton United Methodist Church will hold a Heritage Day Program at 1:30 P.M. Contact Ruth Stauffer for further details.

Paul Bahnmaier

LAKE VIEW KANSAS

Lake View is a small community six miles east of Lecompton and about five miles west of Lawrence, near the south bank of the Kansas River. The center of the area is a large lake that was formed as a result of a great flood in the Kansas River prior to 1844. A legend of that era states that the river overflowed "mightily" and filled the valley of eastern Kansas, even exceeding the great 1903 flood. According to a Delaware Indian legend, the water extended from the banks of the Wakarusha River to the highlands of Cameron Bluffs. When the water receded, the river reshaped itself into a fairly straight channel, passing up a former loop or curve that had made a big turn to the south and doubled back to the north, forming a lake that was first called Horseshoe Lake, but later was renamed Lake View.

The lake was one of Daniel Boone's favorite stopping places during his hunting expeditions throughout the West. Some of the "old timers" living near the lake, declared that the ruins of an old chimney uncovered by the 1903 flood, was the remains of his log cabin, and some of these settlers, among them the Brune family, knew the descendants of the old trapper, and heard them speak of the cabin.

It was in this locality that in 1854 Aristides Roderique and A.G. Boone stopped when they were seeking a location for a town site, that they hoped would become the Capital of Kansas. In the absence of roads, they followed the Kansas river from Kansas City to the lake which was so large that it was impractical to cross it. They decided to camp beside it and reconnoiter on foot. The next day they walked five miles west, and as the growth was so luxuriant and there was a heavy dew, they became extremely damp. As a result they quickly found a place they thought suitable. They named it Bald Eagle, which was later changed to Lecompton.

Since the time of Daniel Boone, the country has become thickly settled, and cut up into farms. The lake area is owned by the Lake View Fishing and Shooting

Association which was organized in 1892. There was much fishing in the summer and hunting in the fall. However, there is no hunting permitted now, the geese and ducks can settle there when passing to and from the northern breeding grounds in safety.

The club members, at first, boarded at the nearby farm homes, they became tired of that and erected a club house, a small building in a big grove of trees, and a steward was installed who served meals, and cared for the place. The house kept growing, room by room, and now it is a large affair with numerous private rooms and a large assembly hall with an open grate. The club house was named Camp Comfort. Members bring their wives and children with them so they can fish, swim, wade, skate, or walk about enjoying the beautiful scenery. Many members were from Kansas City, Topeka and Lawrence.

Every Fourth of July was celebrated with a fish fry, and contests on the rifle or skeet range, with the sides of the lake performing the functions of a beach. In the evening there were beautiful fireworks. This is still a yearly custom of the members.

In 1924 there was a serious drought and the lake almost dried up. Louis Hall, of Topeka, believed he could refill it, and made an agreement with the club to raise the lake level 24 inches, by pumping water from wells he drilled, or they would not need to pay him. He drilled two wells on the north side of the lake and installed a centrifugal pump with a big tractor for power, and pumped water into the lake twenty-four hours a day. Later he dug three more wells and increased the flow to 2,000,000 gallons per day, and raised the level 24 inches!

After Kansas became a state, some black people moved into the area, a few of them settling near Lake View. Some of their names were Lewis, Breckenridge, Howard, Lee, Settler, Williams, and Logan. The Lewis family seems to have had the largest representation and were active in organizing a church--The African Methodist Church--in 1893. They met first in their

homes with Rev. J.S.Wilson as pastor, they had fourteen members. They later met in the school house, however another organization also used it and they couldn't meet at their regular time. As a result Joshua Logan gave them a piece of his land for a place to build a church. It was staked, a foundation was dug they became aware that the land around it had been leased to the Lake View Club and they would have to cross their land to get to the church-this was not practical. Eben Baldwin then leased them a piece of ground, south of the Lake View railroad station that was to be in their use as long as it was used as a church. If they gave it up, they could tear down whatever building they had erected.

In 1937 a terrible rain, hail and wind storm swept Lake View, tearing off part of the church roof and breaking out eight windows. Repairs were made so church services continued. In 1941 they were united with the Lawrence St. James Church - sharing the same pastor. In 1952 their church building was sold, as the 1951 flood severely damaged it and members went to the Lawrence church.

There is a cemetery for the people of the original church southeast of the old Crowder school house, on a hill with large pine trees. In the early days, the black people had no burial grounds, so a Mr. Crowder gave them a piece of his land for a cemetery. There are twenty to thirty babies buried at the south end and numerous former church members throughout the cemetery. There is no road leading to it, and with different land owners, it has been difficult to give it care. The fence is now broken down and cows roam over the graves, tipping many tombstones. The last burial was in 1940.

The town of Lake View at one time had a general store with post office, blacksmith shop and an ice house all located near the Santa Fe station. Ice was harvested every winter for storage, each layer being covered with sawdust which acted as insulation. Also near the railroad tracks, a local farmer, who raised large fields of potatoes, and an operation that washed, dried and sorted hundreds of bushels for shipping. Near that facility was a pea sheller that shelled green peas

that were raised nearby for a Lawrence canning factory.

The businesses are all gone now, but the club house is still active, as are the summer houses affiliated with it, and the nearby farmers. Many lovely houses have been built in the area, as it is a pleasant place to live. The club grounds are cared for by a permanent caretaker who lives on the grounds in a trailer home. The members are now planning a 100th anniversary celebration to take place in 1992.

Sara Walter

Thanks

We are always grateful and appreciative of your interest, concern, and support of this museum and community. We very much appreciate the following items which have been donated to the museum:

- (1) Photo of Frank Pickens by Ruth Meger.
- (2) Painting by Ellen Duncan of the Kenneth Matney home from the Matney memorial.
- (3) Contribution of a display case made by Pioneer Woods in honor of Denzel Gibbens.
- (4) Historic Pamphlets by Lois Hallenger.
- (5) Old Movie Camera by Eugene Schaffer.
- (6) Sheet Music which belonged to Iba Stauffer by Ruth Stauffer.
- (7) Eisenhower Plate from Fay Talley.

Thanks also go to volunteer staff, such as Ruth Ice for writing thank-you notes for memorials, Margaret and Ross Wulfkuhle for being program chairpersons, and those fine people in charge of our monthly dinners: Helen Hildenbrand, Maxine Bissel, Mae Holderman, and Arloene Simmons.

Paul Bahnmaier

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our quarterly report for this newsletter: six more Life Memberships, making a total of 93 memorials and 422 Life members; a total of 521.

Life Members: Karen (Scarlett) McConnell, Nancy D. Ingrisano, Beeneson H. Bisel by wife Maxine Glenn Dark Bisel, Bud Newell and wife Marti (Ruchko) Newell, and Dorothy J. (LaDuke) Neil.

Iona Spencer

Family History Book

The Douglas County Genealogical Society is going to publish a family history book. They would like to have the history of your family to be included in this important publication. Any person who considers Douglas County their home including newcomers and former residents may contribute a 500 word double spaced history of their family. One photo may also be included. This must be submitted by January 30, 1992. It may be mailed to Douglas County Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 3664, Lawrence, Kansas 66046-0664. The cost of the book will be \$53.00 and will be available in 1993. Carol Francis is project facilitator. Be a part of this historic book. Paul Bahnmaier

THE LECOMPTON UNION

LECOMPTON, K.T.

Thursday November 6, 1856

By A.W. Jones & R.H. Bennett, Edts.

OUR PROSPECTS

"The Lecompton Union" was born on the 3rd day of May 1856, in a little ten by twelve shanty, in this place. In one corner of said building was the Editor's table, in another the press, and the entire remainder was occupied by printer's stands. When one member of the concern moved all the others stood edge-wise that he might pass, and this is the way, we wrote, worked, and operated generally, in order that our little paper should build up for it and our selves a good name at home and abroad.

With a diminutive capital on hand, and a short credit, we made our first issue and sent it abroad for public inspection. We made no big brags as to what we could or would do, only, that we would conduct an honest and sound paper, and as far as we were capable, would make it a true friend to our country and party. We told them it should be a true "Southern Rights" sheet, as well as "States Rights Democratic", occupying a conservative position, and

devoted to the interest and advancement of our territory and its good citizens--all of which we have ever labored to perform.

We had scarcely begun, before our territory was thrown into political convulsions, that ended not here, but shook the entire Union.

We took up the banner of our party and our cause, and with all our strength bore it aloft--condemning the wrong--upholding, the right--as we in our humble judgement were directed. We might have been more ultra, and by publishing every rumor, have created more excitement, but upon principle we acted, even at the hazzard of our cause, and shrunk from the bare shadow of untruth. We determined not to be reampld by cliques or men, or freaks of politicians, but in our humble judgement to choose the right course, and unflinchingly to oppose those whom we thought were doing wrong. Our rights, just and inseparable rights, was our motto; and when trampled upon by pretended friends, or open foes, we flew to the rescue, with all our zeal and strength.

With this course marked out, and our principals inscribed upon our little banner, we flung it to the breeze. From a handful of Patrons, we have grown to a large circulation, even beyond our happiest anticipations, and all in one short six months. We are encouraged--we have reached the first round in the ladder, and now look higher with ambitious hearts. The top most round may not be beyond possibility, and we have the will. We shall continue with the same zeal and firmness to labor on, for "Southern rights and Democratic principles." If we succeed in upholding and shielding these cherished sentiments of our heart in spreading light to the world, and doing good to our fellow citizens--we have then consummated our aim, and are much pleased with our work--but, if we fail, we are determined it shall be our consolation, that never have we disgraced our party or our cause by retreat, or surrender.

We return deep thanks to our partrons for so much encouragement, with the hope that they will not lose confidence in us, but still continue to aid us in our enterprise, by giving their influence in behalf of the UNION.

Denzel R. Gibbens, 70, died Friday April 12, 1991 at his home in Lawrence. Mr. Gibbens was retired vice-president of Linquist and Graig Hotels and Resorts in Lawrence. He earlier taught school at Washington and Minneapolis and was superintendent of schools at Belpre. He was a veteran of W.W.II. He was born September 21, 1920 in Baldwin, the son of Chester C. and Flossie Cunningham Gibbens. He was a graduate of Lecompton High School and received a B.S. degree in Business and an M.S. degree in Education from Kansas University. While at K.U. he lettered in football, baseball and track. He was awarded the game ball following the 1941 game with K-State. He later was tennis coach and ticket manager at K.U. He married Warrenne Spaulding in 1945 at Lawrence. She survives. Other survivors include two sons Denzel and Michael of Tonganoxie, a sister Wilma Williams, a brother Chester, and seven grandchildren. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery at Lecompton. Denzel was a strong supporter and volunteer of the Lecompton Historical Society and Lecompton community. He organized a "think tank" to develop ideas for Lecompton. His work to save the Lecompton Roadside Park, the flower

barrels, Constitution Hall, and other things will long be remembered.

Rachel M. Larson, age 82, died June 17, 1990 after a brief illness. She was born March 26, 1908 at Scranton, Kansas the daughter of Charles Oscar and Mary Ann Glenn Johnson. She was preceded in death by her husband Emil E. Larson, two sisters and a nephew. She was a member of the Episcopal church. She lived at Oklahoma City and was a Life member of the Lecompton Historical Society since June 1982. She was survived by her brother Eric Johnson, a niece, a nephew, and great nephews and nieces. Graveside services were held at the Carbondale cemetery.

Ann L. Alderman, died August 13, 1990 in St. Louis, Missouri, at the age of 92. She was born December 28, 1898, the daughter of James and Dora Marney Murphy. She spent part of her childhood in the Big Springs and Lecompton vicinity, later moving to Rossville, Kansas. She was married to Frank Alderman who preceded her in death, as did their only son. She is survived by her brother Eugene H. Murphy of Seattle, Washington.

Paul Bahnmaier

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 _____

OBITUARIES

Mrs. Leona B. Brunkow, 69, Topeka died Monday, March 11, 1991. She was born September 6, 1921, at Oskaloosa, the daughter of Leo and Belle Marker Jones. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Delta Theta Chi sorority and the Lakeview Association. She was married to Victor P. Brunkow, August 30, 1952, who survives. Other survivors include a daughter, Paula Kalivoda of Oklahoma City and a granddaughter. She is one of the last descendants of the Migilario family, who was brought here to build the Territorial Capital. Her brother preceded her in death. Burial was in Mount Hope Cemetery in Topeka.

Thomas Lee Brooke, 73, Mayetta, died Thursday, May 2, 1991 in a Topeka hospital. He was born October 21, 1919, in Topeka, the son of Mark T. and Lottie Ann Myers Brooke. He was a 1937 graduate of Lecompton High School. He was a member of the Breakfast Club at Holton, the Lecompton Historical Society, and a Catholic church. He is survived by his sister Dorothy J. Kramer of Topeka. Burial was in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Topeka.

Frank Millard Taylor, 88, Topeka died Wednesday, February 20, 1991. He was a printer for 48 years. He was born February 9, 1903 at Lakeview the son of John M. and Etta Taylor. He was a graduate of Lecompton High School. He was a member of the Amateur Radio Relay League and involved in Boy Scouts of America. He married Laura Steves in 1924. She died in 1984. Survivors include a daughter, Barbara Carlson, two sons Donald and Philip, a sister Hazelle Dyer, and eight grandchildren. Interment was in Mount Hope Mausoleum in Topeka.

Melvin D. Confer, 65, Big Springs died, Thursday, April 11, 1991 at Topeka after a long illness. He was employed by Lawrence Ready Mix for 38 years. He was a veteran of W.W.II. He was born February 2, 1926 at Green, Kansas, the son of Samuel A. and May Marie Eppler Confer. He lived in Lecompton until he moved to Big Springs in 1950. He was a member of Alford-Clarke Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 852 and Teamsters Union, both of Lawrence. He married Virginia Lee Wilson October 14, 1945 at Big Springs. She died October 28, 1985. Survivors include two daughters, Denna Johnson and Deanna Grandstaff, his mother Marie, a sister Carol McCune, half-brother Walter, and 5 grandchildren. Burial was in Eastview Cemetery at Big Springs.

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