

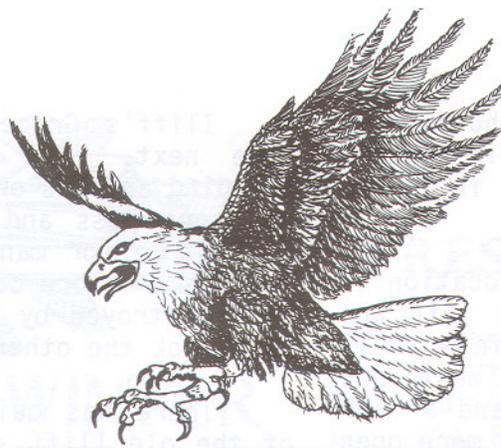
The LHS Newsletter Archive

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LECOMPTON BEFORE THE BIG FIRE OF 1916

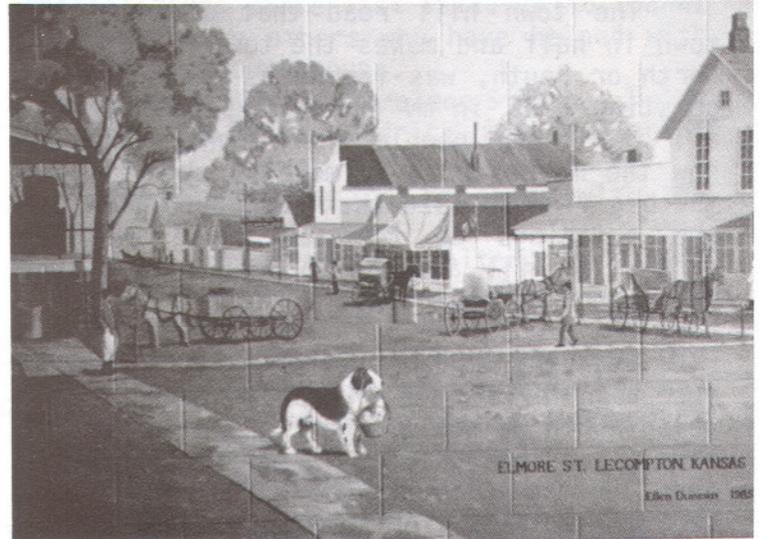
Faye Todhunter Glenn, several years ago felt the urge to share the pleasant experiences she had while growing up in Lecompton. These experiences included fun as well as vignettes of the people of the community that she had enjoyed knowing, and the activities they took part in to make Lecompton a good place to live.

In attempting to write this bit of history, I wish to say that I do not claim it to be absolutely authentic, but only as I remember it and as it was told to me by interested parties. For their help I am grateful.

First, I will tell a little of my own background. I was born in Lecompton, September 6, 1898, in the home now occupied by Kenneth and Carol Kibee. To my knowledge I am the only person my age or older who was born here and is still making this their home.

My family and I made two short moves to Dover, Kansas; once when I was in the eighth grade, and the second move after I had finished teaching five years in the Lecompton grade school in 1925, then I was married in 1926.

I received my education in Lecompton grade school with the exception of the eighth grade. My parents and I moved back



to Lecompton and I finished my four years of high school. I then attended Emporia Teachers College for one year and returned to teach third and fourth grade pupils for five consecutive years.

I was married July 4, 1926, to Harvey M. Glenn. We went through high school together and after we were married we lived on the family farm for about three years, until Harvey got into business for himself. We then moved to Lecompton and lived on the Henry Davidson place until 1941. Harvey was a livestock dealer and trucker. In 1941 we bought the Frank Kerns place of 40 acres. Harvey continued to operate his business and farm. We lived together until Harvey recently had to go to a nursing home in Oskaloosa. (He has since passed on.) At present, I am still making this my home.

My parents were John Calvin Todhunter and Lula (Hopkins) Todhunter. I had a brother Roy Todhunter who passed away in

1975. He had a son, Roy John, who died in 1976. Roy's wife, Emma, lives in Topeka. His daughter, Sue Miller, resides in Topeka also.

First, I will explain the location of the town in case someone reads this who does not know. It is nestled in a small valley with hills to the east and west; and on the north, the Kansas River and a line of bluffs. The south is a little more open but to some degree is also hilly. It is about three miles from Perry, about twelve miles from Lawrence, and about twenty miles from Topeka.

The town hill road that divides the town in half and makes the town distinctly North or South, was famous as a grand snow coasting area in my growing up years. To all the older people that might remember how the main street (Elmore) looked before the big fire in 1916 that destroyed most of the buildings on the east side of the street; I will attempt to recall them and the owners at that time.

Starting at the corner of Elmore and the town hill road (Woodson Avenue) and going north we would find first a two story frame building owned by Thomas Lee of Perry and operated by Fred Nace of Lecompton who had charge of it for many years. It was a hardware store, and above it were rooms occupied at times by roomers or professional people, such as a dentist who I remember did some work for me.

Next to the hardware store was a one story neat building with brick facing and recessed back from the main sidewalk, with patches of grass lawn and neatly trimmed hedge in front. It was occupied by Dr. Chambers who was our doctor for many years.

Next to the doctor's office building, was a two story frame building that housed the Post Office and above that, reached by a long stairway, was a hall used by different organizations. At one time, it was used for services for the Methodist Church. At the time of the fire, Mrs. Todhunter, my mother, was the Post Mistress.

Next to the north, was a meatmarket, a one story frame building and at the time of the fire, was owned by my father, John Todhunter.

Iliff's Grocery and Dry Goods Store came next. It was a one story frame building and was owned by Mrs. Maymie Iliff and sons Ross and Winter who operated and kept store for many years before the fire. The Leamer store came next. However it had been destroyed by fire before the big fire that took the other buildings.

There was quite a space to the north of the old Iliff store where we would find a small frame shop owned by Ike Hartup and used as a shoe repair shop. He served us well. The shop is now no more, but was not destroyed by the fire.

On down the street to the north was a neat frame cottage owned by George Connell and his aged mother. The house still stands but was remodelled. There was another small one story frame building used as a restaurant and run by Mr. Dick and wife, also by Lucy Large and husband. It has now been remodelled as a dwelling and owned by Carl Bahnmaier. Leatha McClanahan also owns a small one story frame house next to the old Connell home.

Next there is quite a space and we come to a two story frame building known as the old Drug Store. It was owned, when I remember it, by Charles Strawn and Mr. Spangler was the pharmacist. It was not destroyed by the fire but was torn down. Next to the drug store was a large two story frame house owned by an elderly lady, Mrs. Coonie Reeder. It did burn but not in the big fire. Now a new house has been built in its place and is owned by Mrs. Sam Dark.

All this takes care of the buildings before the fire and as they appear now with the exception of the new buildings that replaced the old and were built after the fire by Mr. Kreider and which I will tell about later.

Going back now to the west side of Elmore Street and Town Hill (Woodson Avenue) and going north. On the west corner was a very historical rock building two and one-half stories high known as the Rowena Hotel. It was famous in the early days of Kansas when it first became a state and Lecompton was to have been the first Capitol. Later the building was used as a dormitory for Lane University students. It was later owned by Hugh Larimer. He and

his family occupied the second floor for many years. On the first floor he maintained a furniture and general store; also a lumber yard in the back of the building. On the third floor, George Connell printed the LECOMPTON SUN, the town's newspaper for many years. Below the first floor, in the basement, was a barber shop owned and run by Alf Mikesel, also a woodworking shop owned by George Norwood, Sr. This building was used after the big fire to house two grocery stores, a meat market and Post Office. It was owned by Gus Hildenbrand. He and Iliff operated the grocery stores, John Todhunter the meat market and Lily Todhunter the Post Office. This building was eventually sold to a construction company and torn down. Now the space is a City Park.

Next to the north, on the west side of Elmore, is a stone building that was originally known as the Radical Church. It is still standing and is our City Hall and community building.

A few yards away was an old one-and-a-half story frame building owned by a Mr. Brown and wife. The upper floor was used as a dwelling for the family and below was a restaurant. It had a succession of owners and also was used as a creamery later on. It was finally abandoned and torn down. Now, in between the City Hall and where the old building was, we have a fire station.

Again to the north, we have a two story frame building known as Constitution Hall. It was very famous in the early days of Kansas as a meeting place of the Legislature. It is still standing and was owned by the Rebecca Lodge; also it was a meeting place for the Masons and Odd Fellows. It was recently bought by Wint Winter, Sr. and Senator Frank Gaines and then given to the State of Kansas. Behind the hall and to the west (across the alley), in a half bank, is the old jail, a solemn reminder of the turbulent days of long ago when Kansas first became a state.

The rest of the block is taken up by residences, some remodelled; one just north of Constitution Hall, a new one owned by Mr. Roy Paslay. It was built in a space once occupied by a house owned by Mrs. Zinn, a long ago resident of the town. This finishes Elmore Street to the north of

Town Hill on both east and west side of Elmore.

Now we will go to the south of Town Hill and take the east side of Elmore first. Here you will find the New Rowena Hotel (old Windsor). It was a two and a half story frame building with a covered porch running around all of the north and west sides. It also had a large basement. It is now occupied by the United Methodist Church. It also housed a grade school for a short time until the new grade school was built in 1920; the old grade and high school having been destroyed by fire in 1919. The hotel was very much in demand in the early days, when we were lucky enough to have good train service, as many a traveling man stayed over night there. The first owners of the New Rowena Hotel that I am able to recall were my grandparents, William and Rachel Todhunter McCarty. When my parents were married they lived at the hotel until they set up housekeeping on their own. Fred and Corina Hill were the next owners.

The New Rowena Hotel as it was known long ago and now as the United Methodist Church in Lecompton, played a very significant part in my life as a child and my growing up years, also as a school teacher and now as a church of which I am a member.

When I was a child the New Rowena Hotel was owned and operated by Fred and Corina Hill, man and wife. Mrs. Hill was known and loved by all the children who called her "Aunt Corina". She had two nieces, Bernice and Corina, who with their grandmother, Mrs. Harris, lived in the hotel. Aunt Corina loved children and was always interested in promoting activities of many kinds for their pleasure and development as good useful citizens. She was also a good church member of the old United Brethren Church located in the old Lane University building. She taught a Sunday School class in the primary department and it was here in this class that I was to remember something all my life. It happened during a temperance lesson in which she told all the ill effects of liquor. I could hardly wait to tell her that my Papa drank beer, confident that if my Papa drank beer it must be allright for me to use. He could do nothing wrong. This little episode she told to my

parents and they all had a good laugh. Another little happening that I remember occurred vividly when my playmates and myself were putting on a little play which we called "Uncle Tom's Cabin". We charged ten pins for admission. The hotel had a large living room and off this was a small open room we used as a stage which made an ideal place to perform. I had the leading part of Little Eva and I played it very nicely until it came time for Little Eva to die. This part for some reason I refused to go through with and so the black makeup was taken off "Topsey" who then went ahead with the death scene much to the disgust and disappointment of the rest of the cast. The hotel also had a large dining room and it was often used for parties of all kinds and many public affairs. I remember a Mrs. Bronson and daughter Estell, who operated it for awhile, and later a Mrs. Dean and three children.

Next to the hotel to the south was a story and a half concrete building known as the Methodist Church. It served the community for a good many years and was eventually torn down and in its place is a frame building known as the United Methodist parsonage.

The rest of the street is taken up by residences that were all original except the last one. It was a large frame two story building owned by Hattie Winter. It burned and in its place Mr. Gus Hildenbrand built a frame house that still stands.

Going back to the Town Hill road and Elmore and across to the west of the New Rowena Hotel we find a brick building known as the Bank Building. It is built on the original bank lot but has been remodelled and now it is no longer a bank. It has been used as a dwelling for several families. When Mr. Kreider was the banker, he had a lumber yard back of the bank but it is no longer there.

The houses to the south of the bank on Elmore are all the originals but have been remodelled. One was torn down, the Rose Iliff house, and a large trailer house put in its place.

Now moving to the very top of the hill on the Town Road (Woodson Avenue) to the west, on the right side used to be the blacksmith shop, operated by Jake Carlson.

As a child I lived right next to it and was fascinated by the sound of hammer and anvil and sparks flying, as I watched Mr. Carlson shoe a horse. It was a good place to find loafers and onlookers. It has long since been abandoned.

Half way down the Town Hill to the left or south was a frame cottage that housed the Bell Telephone Office. The first telephone operator that I remember was a Mrs. Meredith and husband, then Charles Kuhn and family for many years, children Madge and Boe, Mrs. Margaret Cottrell and daughter Marie. The Bell Telephone Office is no more and is used as a private dwelling.

Going down the Hill once more and crossing Elmore Street to the east, just below the New Rowena Hotel we find a building that is now a garage but used to be a livery stable. As I remember it was first owned and run by Mr. Fred Hill. It did a thriving business for many years as there were not many automobiles at that time. One interesting thing that I remember about it was that they kept a vehicle which was called a "hack". It was just a covered four-wheel wagon with sideboards and a canvas covering. Inside were two long benches for passengers. It was used mostly to take passengers to and from the trains as the depot was several blocks away from town. It was also used by different organizations to take them to parties or entertainments in nearby towns or to surrounding countrysides. A man by the name of Harmon Finley was a handy man at the stable and often drove the hack. The hack met all the trains that stopped at the depot. In later years the stable was rebuilt by Harry Sutton and turned into a garage. The building is now a woodworking shop owned by Mr. Powell.

At the very bottom of the hill on the south side of Town Hill road is a large two story stone building that housed the grade school and high school combined. It burned in 1919 and a new brick grade school building took its place in 1920 and continued in use for many years until a new grade school was built in 1961 in the southwest part of town. The old school building still stands and is owned by private owners, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil King.

Across the street from the old grade

school stands the empty building that housed the high school. It was built in 1928 and used for many years as such until the high school was consolidated with Perry High School in 1970.

Behind and to the north of this building is the Lane University Meseum building that once was to have been the Capitol of Kansas, then was Lane University, the United Brethren Church and class rooms for high school students until the new school was built.

Lecompton's pride and joy is the building in which the Lane University Museum is found. The building holds many memories for me. As a child I attended Sunday School and Church there. At that time it was known as the United Brethren Church. During my high school days I attended class in the several rooms reserved for that purpose. In the large third floor room I have attended Church, gone to many funerals, to many plays put on by the high school, and lecture courses that once were a source of entertainment. Many a graduating class received their diplomas there; also, it was a basketball court and used extensively for awhile. Looking back, I marvel at the effort it took to carry a casket up that long steep flight of stairs to the chapel room when it was used for funeral services. I also remember attending one of the first, if not the first, Alumni Banquet held in this room in 1918. This was before the new high school was built. I think of how food was carried up those stairs and how difficult it must have been for those who served it. Now as a museum, it is rated very highly and houses many historical treasures.

By
Faye Todhunter Glenn

TERRITORIAL DAY

For talent show information contact Vicki Mallonee at 887-6353. Gary Merritt at 887-6075 has parade information. Either Nancy Howard at 887-6388 or Lila Bartell at 887-6316 can give you information on obtaining a booth. Others on the Territorial Day committee include Roy and Marsha Paslay, Glenn Mallonee, Janet

Bauman, Carol McLess, Howard Duncan, Bob Christman, Judy Kibbee, Lyle Fergus, and Paul Bahnmaier. Paul Bahnmaier

Territorial Day

Kansas Territorial Day celebration in Lecompton will be Saturday, June 27th. The schedule of interesting events is as follows:

8:00 AM
Softball and Sand Volleyball Tournament

8:30
Frog and Turtle Races

9:00
Lane Museum Opens
Horseshoe Tournament

10:00
Quilt Display

10:30
Judging of Parade Entries

11:00
Parade with 1950's Theme

11:30
Marching Jaguars Dance Routine
Church Lunch

1:00-3:00 PM
Children's Contests

2:00
Gun Fight Play and Routine

4:00
Gun Fight Play and Routine

5:00
Bingo
Ice Cream Social
Spencer's Country Music

6:00
Perry-Lecompton Jazz Band

7:00
Talent Show

9:00 PM - Midnight
Street Dance with NoWare Band

David & George Martin

Father & Son

David and Mary Martin were among the first settlers of Lecompton; David having come in 1855 and Mary with the rest of the family two years later. Their lives were similar to the other early settlers, so their experiences were characteristic of the period. Their son George had an important part in several newspapers of that time, was State Printer and Secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society.

The Martin family who came to Lecompton in 1855 was Scotch by blood, Irish by association and Welch by the mother's side of the family! There were in the family William Martin, the great grandfather, John Martin, the grandfather, David Martin, the father, and George Martin, the son.

William Martin emigrated from Scotland to Ireland as did his son John who married Elizabeth Martin (no relation) and who had a son David born December 1, 1814. John and his wife and son came to America in 1819, landing in Baltimore, Maryland, and going from there to Indiana County, Pennsylvania, to set up a new home.

In Pennsylvania, David grew to manhood. In 1834, when he was twenty years old, he went to work on the construction of the Allegheny Portage Railroad. At Summitville, he met Mary Howell, whose parents had come from Wales and settled in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania where Mary was born in 1822. They wed there September 16, 1840, and went to Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania to found their own home. It was in this home their son George was born June 30, 1841.

In 1855, the call to "Bleeding Kansas" came to David to go there and help them settle their troubles. He joined a westward bound throng and made tracks to Kansas. He took up a claim two miles west and south of Lecompton, which was later known as the Albert Walter farm. His family stayed in Pennsylvania while he spent about two years improving the farm and then went back there to bring the family to Kansas.

The day after his arrival home,

preparations for the long journey began, a task which consumed days. At last came the eventful day, and the family was astir long before the rest of the town was awake. Rev. David Junkin, the preacher for the Presbyterian church they had faithfully attended, came at the hour of four o'clock to have prayer with the family prior to



MARY MARTIN

their departure.

The family left Hollidaysburg, March 17, 1857 for Lecompton, Kansas Territory. They traveled down the Ohio River by steamboat to St. Louis, Missouri, where they took passage on a sternwheeler that would take them up the Missouri River and into the Kansas River to Lecompton, where many Pennsylvanians had located. All along the route in Missouri and into Kansas, they were met with jeers from the townspeople, and questions as to how many Sharpe rifles they had with them and how many slaves they had stolen. The family arrived at Westport, Missouri, April 6, 1857. They spent a night at a hotel, and the next morning the oldest son George, an uncle, and several others, started walking to Lecompton. They were so eager to get there, they didn't want to wait for better transportation. The rest of the family remained there until transportation could be obtained.

They struck out on the California Road, and found it to be a slow tiresome journey, for the road was rough and soft from melting snows and early spring rains. The first day they covered about thirty

miles by the time darkness overtook them, and so they rested at night at the Fish's Hotel. They were up again and on the road at sunrise the next morning, reaching the village of Lawrence about noon. George's feet were blistered and sore, but with a stout heart he tramped on and on.

About four o'clock in the afternoon, they walked into Lecompton, then a "so-called" pro-slavery town and the Kansas Territorial Capitol. They found lodging at the Locknane Boarding House, cooled their burning feet and rested their weary limbs, and then before sundown, started out to



DAVID MARTIN

look at the town. George went into the post-office to inquire for any mail that might have come for the family during the three weeks they were traveling, and was very surprised to recognize the postmaster, Andrew Rodrique, a former citizen of his home town, Hollidaysburg. The recognition was mutual. The postmaster, a pro-slavery man, seeing a copy of the Hollidaysburg Standard newspaper in Martin's mail at once began to tirade against Martin's preacher friend, the good Reverend Junkin. The memory of the farewell prayer by Junkin rose up in the mind of George; he was only a boy, not quite sixteen, but he resented the insults aimed at the preacher, but his manner of resenting these insults showed he was able to take care of himself. His red hair and Irish-Scotch temper indicated that! The postmaster threatened to throw him out, but didn't. This was perhaps the first religious war in Kansas.

Within a week, David and his wife Mary arrived in Lecompton and settled on their one hundred & sixty acre farm. With their hard-working and thrifty habits, they had a good life. They planted many fruit trees on their farm and named it Orchard Knob. They had eleven children: George W. 1841, Edmund 1843, David Howell 1845, Joseph 1846, Ann 1848, Elizabeth (1) 1849, John 1852, Elizabeth (2) 1859, William 1861, Robert 1862, and Stephen Douglas 1863. Elizabeth (1), William and Robert died in infancy. Joseph did not reach adulthood. The rest became active leading citizens in the parts of the United States to which they dispersed.

David and Mary celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary, September 16, 1890. Their guests included: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Leamer, Dr. and Mrs. Lewis, Dr. and Mrs. Snyder, Mrs. H.C. Lee, Mrs. D. Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. P.M. Lewis, Mrs. Clara Finley, Mr. and Mrs. Moses McCall, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lahue, Mr. and Mrs. E.P. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Garrett, Miss Bessie Young, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hafer, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Migliario, Mrs. L.F. Marsh, Miss Nora Hafer, Mr. and Mrs. A.K. Lowe, Miss Hattie Lowe, and William Young.

On July 29, 1892, Mary Martin died after a long illness. The next day David fell down the cellar stairs, fracturing a rib, and causing other internal injuries and he died the same day. A double funeral was held and both buried in a single grave.

When the David Martins still lived in Pennsylvania, a son, George, had about the same round of experiences and adventure of other boys of that period--a little schooling, some fun, and a good deal of work; the boy was industrious. He found joy in something worth doing. One of his pleasantest pastimes was to go to the railroad to wait for the little locomotive to come in. He would do chores for the engineer and in return was permitted to set on the engineer's seat and run the train a few rods. It belonged to the state of Pennsylvania and in later years, due to mismanagement, went to rack and ruin. This led George to forever oppose government ownership of any utility.

Later he delivered newspapers and developed an ambition to be a "maker" of them. He entered the Hollidaysburg

Register to learn the printing trade, and was fascinated by the fact that as a newspaperman, he knew everything that was going on. In 1857 when he got to Lecompton, he went to work at the "Lecompton Union" newspaper office, an intensely pro-slavery paper. Its name was later changed to "The National Democrat" and Governor Walker, Fred P. Stanton, and Samuel Medary were editorial contributors.

As a printer and chore boy for that paper, George came in contact with the leaders of the pro-slavery cause which was soon to be lost. He found the leaders to be clever and hospitable gentlemen, violent only in their attitude toward and their language concerning abolitionists. It was the "low-down, ignorant bushwackers, border ruffians, and the hordes of adventurers and hangers-on" who were responsible for the devilment to be feared. At all times on the alert for news, he was to be found in the center of the crowd. He was at the great mass meeting of free-state sympathizers who gathered at Lecompton at the time of special session of the legislature, called by Governor Stanton to provide for the submission of the Lecompton Constitution to a full and impartial vote. He heard the speeches of Jim Lane who spoke from the back of a wagon; Charles Robinson who addressed them from the steps of the Land Office, and Vaughan who stood on a box looking out over the crowd and shouted, "We have chased them into their very holes, we are now crowing on their dunghills, let them come forth".

George believed it was only a miracle that the town was saved from complete destruction by the indignant free-state men who were there. They had come by the hundreds and concealed in their wagons under bags of feed and piles of hay were Sharpe's rifles, revolvers and pistols, ready for use. All that was needed to start something was the report of a pistol, a fist fight, or rash act by someone.

Sheriff Jones, as a pro-slavery partisan, nearly supplid the torch. Angry because of his failure to put George Brown of Lawrence out of the newspaper business, Jones slunk through the crowd hunting for him. William Leamer, a cool headed man of Lecompton, by a piece of strategic work, got Jones out of the way. George gave Leamer credit for saving the town from

ashes.

George Martin left Lecompton in 1859 to return to Philadelphia where he entered a publication house to complete his five year apprenticeship. He remained until 1861. He returned to Lecompton then, but soon moved on to Junction City, Kansas, to work as a printer there. Over the years, he was affiliated with several newspapers, was state printer, and Secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society for many years.

He and Lydia Coulson of St. George, Kansas were married December 20, 1863. They were the parents of five children; Lincoln, 1864; Amelia, 1867; Charles, 1876; Elizabeth and Ruth died in infancy. George Martin died March 27, 1914.

Sara Walter and Iona Spencer

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Lecompton Ledger, Lecompton, Kansas, September 19, 1880
Lecompton Sun, Lecompton, Ks. Aug. 4, 1892
Pictures --- Mr. and Mrs. David Martin from the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas

Note:

The following descendants of George Martin are members of the Lecompton Historical Society ---
Howard Bigsby of Richand Hills, Texas
Robert Bigsby of Lawrence, Kansas
Beth (Bigsby) Schafer of Largo, Florida
Esther E. Bigsby of Largo, Florida (their mother who is 94 years old)

Membership Report

New Life Members:

Gary Kroeger
Sophia C. Evans (Leonard)
Mae Jean Graves (Damm)

New Memorial:

Lewis Sale by wife Betty
Iona Spencer



SENATOR WINTER RETIRES

Senator Wint Winter, Jr. has retired from the Kansas Senate. He is a great friend of this community and has never forgotten where his roots began. He worked tirelessly to secure funds for the City water grant, he and his father provided outstanding support for the Lane University Museum and Constitution Hall, he supported using the Lecompton High School in some capacity while others were going to feed it to the bulldozer, he worked for the turnpike interchange at county road 1029, and the list can go on. He is a man who made you proud to say he was our State Senator. We are pleased that he is a part of our community and activities. We look forward to working with him on more community and historical society projects. Thank you Wint Winter! Paul Bahnmaier



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thanks to the following people for their dedicated work for the museum or contribution of artifacts:

1. Big Springs School District reports from Cloyd Dreyer.
2. Calendar Plates from Harold Bunce.
3. Pictures from Maxine Bisell.
4. Charlene and A.K. Winter for being in charge of tours. Over 950 people have had special tours since last fall. Also thanks to all of the others who have helped with the various tour groups.
5. Margaret Bowman, Arolene Simmons, Helen Norwood, and Opal Goodrick for cataloging artifacts.
6. Mae Holderman for her work with the budget.
7. Iona Spencer, Sara Walter, Ellen and Howard Duncan for the Bald Eagle.
8. Portrait of F.W. Bertsinger, Walnut collection plate and Hymnal used in Old Methodist Church, old photograph, Leather embossed purse used by Hazel McClanahan (daughter of F.W. Bertsinger) given by Hazel McClanahan children.

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!

Dues are \$4 per year for individual membership and \$6 for a couples membership. The dues year is from December to December. 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 *****

- \$4 Annual Individual Membership
- \$6 Annual Couples Membership
- \$50 Individual Life or Memorial Membership
- Other Contribution \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Obituaries

Cloyd Lee Dreyer of Silver Lake, age 73, died Sunday, April 26, 1992. He was born January 17, 1919 in a dugout on the family homestead near Arlington, Kiowa County, Colorado, the son of John H. and Veda Glenn Dreyer. He lived in Big Springs community and graduated from Lecompton High School in 1937. Mr. Dreyer farmed most of his life and was a heavy duty truck representative for Noller Ford for 29 years. He was an Army veteran of WWII. He was married to Bessie G. Miller, March 17, 1966 in Bonham, Texas. She and two sons, Duane L. Dreyer, Hoyt and Ronald R. Dreyer, Topeka survive. Other survivors include five grandchildren, three step grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and four step great grandchildren. He was buried in East View Cemetery at Big Springs Friday May 1, 1992 with military graveside services.

Cecil L. Lasswell, Ottawa, died February 21, 1992 at his home. He was born December 27, 1907 in Moreland, Oklahoma, the son of George R. and Bamma I. Watson Lasswell. He was a graduate of McPherson High School and a veteran of WWII.

operated several restaurants in Topeka before he retired and moved to Ottawa in 1976. He was a member of the Baptist Church, A.F. & A.M. Lodge No. 51 and Scottish Rite bodies of Topeka. He married Pauline D. O'Hara in 1946. She survives. Burial was in Ottawa.

Harold Glenn Jasperson of Topeka died February 28, 1992 at his home. He was born December 8, 1906 in Scranton, the son of Victor and Betsy Glenn Jasperson. He lived in Topeka most of his life. He retired in 1967 as owner of the Topeka and Lawrence N.A.P.A. stores. He graduated from Topeka High and Washburn University Law School. He was a member of the Alpha Delta social fraternity and Delta Theta Chi legal fraternity. He served as chairman of the USD #501 bond drive for new schools in 1957. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America and a member of A.F. & A.M. Lodge No. 51 and Scottish Rite bodies, Arab Shrine Temple, Rotary Club, and Lowman United Methodist Church, all in Topeka. He married Margaret Joy in 1932, she survives. Other survivors include 4 daughters: Marjorie Smith, Glenda Reid, Nancy Perry, and Eleese Young, two sons John and Marc, 9 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. Burial was in Topeka.

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