The Oregon Trail was the basis for travel in the 1840's to the 1860's across an area then known as the Kansas-Nebraska Territory to the west to both California and Oregon territories. They had been of great interest for some years, but the transients to that area traveled mostly by sea—either by sailing to the Isthmus of Panama, then walking across to the western coast and taking a boat from there up to the two territories, or sailed around South America and up the western coast.

The United States was impressed with the lucrative beaver trapping there. The beaver hides were used primarily for hats and coats, and in some parts of the world they were considered a sign of affluence. The trappers would come back to Missouri and tell of the beautiful farmland they had seen in the west, and soon many farmers were heading that way. When gold was discovered in California in 1849, traffic to the west greatly increased, most of it starting in Westport, Mo., what is now Kansas City, Mo., they crossed the Missouri River, then went west on a trail that led across the Kansas and Nebraska Territory.
In 1858 when Kansas and Nebraska became separated territories, several army forts were set up to protect the pioneers who were traveling there, and which soon became an important service. Many of the transients were so pleased with the Kansas land that they saw, they went no further. When the western migration increased, the ruts that the conestoga wagons had made became deeper and some are visible today 140 years later, as that part of the trail was not plowed. Kansas became the "Gateway to the West". At the onset, the roads were mere dirt trails, winding between hills and streams, but as the state became populated some of the old trails were plowed up and a state checkerboard system of roads took their place. This grew out of the manner in which the land was surveyed. Each section was a mile square, consisting of 640 acres. The roads followed section lines and provided for a road north and south and east and west in each direction. To keep the roads in shape, the legislature provided for an annual road repair by assessing each able-bodied man between 21 and 45 to work two days each year (poll tax). A manager was appointed to oversee the work. Roads were needed for travel to school, church, town, and county seat. In 1900 when rural mail delivery was established and cars were coming into use, better roads were essential.

To George H. Hodges goes the credit for a new road law. He wrote a letter to the public telling about how in March 1899 he was on the way to his wedding in a hack in Olathe, Ks., when it got stuck in a street, he had to walk the rest of the way in his pew patent leather dress shoes, and was very embarrassed to have to be married in muddy shoes. When he was elected to the Legislature in 1907 (Gov. 1913) he presented the "Good Roads Bill" which became law. It provided for the construction of hard surface roads, cement or ballast, the expense to be born partly by the county, the township and the "benefit districts" - areas that adjoined the road being built. In 1917 Congress voted to encourage such highways that would be linked to a national system so that a motorist could drive across the entire country, not just locally, but that the state had to spend a similar amount.

Ben Blow was associated with the California State Automobile Association in 1920 and he and the association urged that a good transcontinental highway be encouraged across the United States. In 1921, George Stanfield of Topeka drove to California and dropped into Blow's office, he wanted some road marking done in Kansas and told them that he admired what California had accomplished in that field. He also told them about the Kansas projected paving westward from Kansas City, Kansas along the so called Golden Belt and Union Pacific Highways. As a result Blow was sent to Topeka to investigate the program. He also coupled the proposed highway with the thought of a national transcontinental highway as an idea of a memorial to the men and women who served their country during World War I with "Victory Highway" to be the name of the new route when completed. He suggested it to the organization in Topeka that was sponsoring it. Blow was selected as national manager of the association as first-planned by Kansas people.

A cement road had been built from Kansas City, Ks. to Lawrence, Ks., and the group now was working on one from there to Topeka. The officials felt it would be a fine start for the "Victory Highway," but the people along the road were stunned at the raise in their taxes and some even lost their farms as a result of it.

By 1923 the highway had reached Topeka and a dedication was planned to take place Nov. 11, 1923 (Veterans Day). The vision of the group promoting the project was a tree lined highway, spanning the nation, with blue and yellow road markings between Kansas City and San Francisco. A bronze eagle monument would be placed at each county line, with a list of the previous war casualties of the county, from San Francisco to New York, the ends of the east and west boundaries of the trail. The terminal markers were to be twelve foot high bronze statues of a single soldier in trench kit.

On the county boundaries, markers were to be provided by the efforts of the women of the counties and each was to be a bronze eagle poised above a nest with outstretched wings in an attitude of hovering over its eaglets, designated to signify the protection this country gives to its people. The first one was cast by Dr. F. F. Roberts of Minnesota and Dr. Widmer of Missouri.

As planned, a half mile of the highway east of Topeka was planted with oak trees by the forestry division April 8, 1923 with the hope that they would ultimately be planted along the highway from New York to California.
After the statue was obtained, it was presented to Senator Arthur Capper who accepted it for the people of Kansas. Then it was placed on the pedestal that had been constructed for it. A plan for its dedication was to take place on Armistice day on the Victory highway, about 9 miles east of Topeka or 1 mile west of Big Springs on the Douglas & Shawnee county line, at 2:30 p.m., Nov. 11, 1923. A plaque with the name of 96 Shawnee County soldiers who lost their lives was to be attached to the monument.

The program consisted of four bands to furnish the music. The program opened with all singing "America", and a group of soldiers presenting the flag. Frank McFarland, Commander of the Kansas Department of the American Legion, opened the ceremonies to a crowd of over 2000 people. H. A. West, president of the Victory Highway Association spoke to the group. A committee of women presented the statue to Gov. Davis which was then unveiled by Mrs. McCoy, the "War Mother" of the state. The Trumpeters from Ft. Leavenworth then played "Taps".

With the unveiling, the Victory Highway became a path of patriotism and a natural altar raised to the memory of the United States soldiers living or dead.

1914 -1918

It was proposed that a similar monument be placed on the line between the Leavenworth and Douglas counties. The "Victory Eagle" was to be erected by the "Federation of Women's Clubs" of Lawrence to commemorate the men and women of the Lawrence and Lecompton areas who gave their lives for the country during World War I. A bronze plaque was to be placed on the statue containing the names of those soldiers.

The dedication service took place May 26, 1929 at the Douglas-Leavenworth line north of the Mud Creek bridge. The program consisted of:

2-2:30 p.m.  Music by F.A.U. Bank
America - Song by everyone
Unveiling - Dr. E. K. Ebright
Presentation - Mrs. L. H. Menger
Unveiling - Mrs. Mattie Crook & Mrs. Weibel
Acceptance - R. C. Rankin & Frank H. McFarland
Address - Ernest A. Ryan
Salute - Firing Squad (Haskell) • Taps - Indian Buglers
The Following Names Appear On The Monument:

**DOUGLAS-LEAVENWORTH VICTORY EAGLE**

**ADJUTANT GENERAL: KS. CASUALTIES IN THE WORLD WAR**

This book is in the archives of the Kansas Historical Society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Musn 3 cl</td>
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<td>9/30/18</td>
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<td>Capt.</td>
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**1980**

One day in 1980 as Tom Swerington was going to Kansas University, he saw the "Kansas Department of Transportation" truck and it had the bronze Mother eagle and nest from the monument of Douglas-Leavenworth border in its truck. He followed them into their department and asked them what they were going to do with it, that he would like to see it set up at Kansas University and was told to contact the state office of the Kansas Transportation in Topeka. They said that vandals had been trying to steal it, but it was more than they could handle and it fell down into a ditch. It was left there until they came along. The plaque was gone and never found.

Kansas University received permission to erect it on the campus. They were given a rock fence near Perry, Ks. with which a base was built. The eagle was placed on it and a new plaque was donated by the Thomas C. Ryther family. It was re-dedicated in 1980. It is located between the Museum of Natural History and the Student Union buildings.

Philip S. Hemingway, director of the K.U. Museums and Natural History, spoke at the dedication on the Dyche Hall Lawn. The message on the plaque of 1980:

"The Victory Eagle"

"Erected on the 'Victory Highway', U.S. 40, at the Leavenworth-Douglas County line as a memorial to those from Douglas County who died in World War I.

Relocated to this site in 1980, cast under the direction of Dr. Thomas F. Roberts and Dr. Otto Widman. Plaque donated by the Thomas C. Ryther family."

As the roads improved and cars and trucks became more numerous, the United States Government decided the roads had to have numbers instead of names and as a result "Victory Highway" was called Highway 40, and so remains, but respect for our soldiers still is rampant and is spread over all the wars. The Revolutionary War, Civil War, Mexican War, World Wars I & II, Korean War, and any war that was ever fought was honored by the Victory Highway even though it is now called "Highway 40".

The Shawnee county eagle statue was also threatened by vandalism and so it was put into storage and later in 1980 erected at the entrance to the Gage Park under direction of Thomas F. Roberts and Dr. Otto Wilman.

As we understand today, there were only three Victory eagle monuments erected in Kansas. They are located in Topeka, Lawrence and Wamego.

**LIBERTY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL**

In April, 1919, the old Lawrence High School was so very much in need of repair, that the students thought this was the time to get a new high school building and to build it in memory of the students that were killed in World War I. They also honored their students that had participated in the war with this inscription across the top of their auditorium:

"All that they had they gave. They gave in sure and simple faith. There can no knowledge reach their grave to make them grudge their death. Save only, if they understood that, after all was done, we the redeemed denied their blood and mocked the gains it won."

*Rudyard Kipling*

The new school to be called "Liberty Memorial High School" was built at 1400 Massachusetts St. Today it is Central Junior High. Names of the students who were killed in World War I are listed on bronze plaques on either side of the auditorium.
Listed on the plaques:

Mark Beach
Theodore Rocklund
Oliver Cromwell Tucker
Lt. Charles L. Cone
John Tupper
Aretus McClure
Thomas Homer Kennedy
Corp. Allen A. Otis
Sgt. John Wilfred Charlton
Max Brown
Lt. Eli F. Dorsey
Corp. Ralph Ellis
Lt. Albert E. Birch
Ross Rummel
Lt. Harry C. Ziesenis
Clark W. McCulloch
Corp. Everett Demerritt
Lt. Herbert Jones

By Sara Walter and Iona Spencer

LECOMPTON DRAFT REGISTRATIONS 1917
TAKEN FROM THE "LECOMPTON SUN", SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1917.

70 REGISTERED
Thursday, draft registration day brought an even 70 to answer their country's call. All white, and all American born but two Mexicans. Two sent their registration cards from a distance; Harry David CLARK from Aurora, MO., and Arthur L. GIBBENS from Melaurin, Miss. Leonard TIMMONS mailed his card from Denver but it failed to reach here.

The number of different ages registering were:
18, 6; 19, 9; 20,3; 33, 5; 34, 4; 35, 2; 36, 2; 37, 6; 38, 5; 39, 3; 40, 3; 41, 3; 42, 5; 43, 5; 44, 6; 45, 3.
W. Bert JELLISON and son, Opie, were the only father and son to register.

The names of registrants:

Orville Clarence McCALL
William Perry COOK
George Zebulon WHIPPL
John Everett MATNEY
Arthur SCHWITZBERGER
Harry Davd CLARKE
Chas. Austin MATHEWS
George Lafayette GLENN
William Irwin COLLINS
Chas. Austin WELLS
Elmer SHIRLEY
Amaziah Howard SAIELIS(?)
Nathan MORRIS
George Henry WAHLENMAIER
Herbert Conwell COLE
Fred Hill MOORE
Thomas Frederick CUMMINGS
William Washington MORRIS
John Franklin HOOD
Frank FITZPATRICK
William Francis SULZEN

Ross L. ILIFF
Paul Brannen WINTER
Opie James JELLISON
Marion Arthur CLARKE
Amos JAMES
Chas. Frederick BROWN
Bruce Evans HOAD
John Milard TAYLOR
A. L. GIBBENS
Newton Garfield SWALLOW
Charles Leslie KUHN
Earnest Gilbert ARNETT
William Arthur MARTIN
Alf MIKESELL
Robert Marshall GRAY
Mike SHELLEY
Harvey Moore GLENN
John Francis CUMMINGS
Charles Allen MIGLARIO
Ira Allen KETERING
Chas. W. SPANGLER

Joe Darryl MCALL
John Steven MIGLARIO
William Bert JELLISON
Herman L. BANKS
Fred Henry NACE
Oscar Monroe WITTERS
Samuel S. DARK
Al LUNDY
Calvin Henry MAUST
Fred Christian SMITH
James Harvey BURNS
James Francis McGINNIS
George Edward McCLANAHAN
Harley Clement ARMSTRONG

William Frederick GRAUE
Thomas TARR
Henry Lee GOFF
Manford Edmund BRISBIN
Albert Sylvester McRae
George Miles BAHNAIHER
Francisco MARDES
Odion BERSERRA
Charles Baker WINTER
Henry Albert ARNETT
Luther Martin WESHER
Charles Ross HARRINGTON
Fred Jacob CARLSON
Guy Hedgeman McCLANAHAN

LECOMPTON MILITARY MEN
The following men served in either the Army or Navy during World War I. This information was taken from the Adjutant General Selective Service of Kansas at the Kansas Historical Research Center in Topeka.

NAME
Thomas H Anderson
John Lyman Banks
Wm. O. Bidinger
Chas. H. Brubin
Herman M. Brokman
Arthur G. Brokman
Frank G. Cole
Wm. Alec Coffman
Howard N. Day
Earl E. Dower (Dowler)
Lloyd Deskin
Richard W. Dummer
H. Harley Edmonds
Charles F. Fix
Albert O. French
Harvey M. Glenn
Roy K. Gress
Jack Hill
Clifford Hoffman
James A. Hoffman
John S. Holloway
Wm. Gerald Holloway
Claude I. Hood
John E. Houk
Everett J. Huey
Carey C. Kerr
Charles C. Kreider
Karl M. Kreider
John S. McClary
Fred A. McClanahan
Emery D. Morris
Henry P. Riley
Herman B. Shellhorn
James C. Schroyer
Elmer R. Shirley
Leonard A. Slaughter
Clarence H. Smith
Willie Smith

CAMP
Ft. Riley
Funston
Cody, N.M.

KSAC

(continued)
(Military men, continued)

Harold Stadler
Geo. C. Tucker
George Tupper
Englebert J. Walter
John A. Walter
Theodore F. Walter
John W. Watts
M. Shipman Winter
Russell C. Worley
Gustave O. Wulfkuhle
Albert G. Wulfkuhle
Harry O. Wulfkuhle
Wm. Amos Wymer
Fred K. Pickens

Ft. Riley
Ft. Riley
Ft. Riley
KSAC
Funston
Aberdeen, MD.
Ft. Riley

Some men spent time in what was called student Army Training Camp, while attending college. KSAC-Ds. State Agriculture College Ks. Univ. - Kansas University

Other names of military men listed in the Lecompton SUN, not listed on the Adjutant General Records.

W. H. East
Clarence Morris
Louis Schott
Harry Fleenor
Chas. Hetrick
Geo. Bahmaier
Duncan Morris
Thomas Hartup
Paul Tupper
Frank Tupper
Ray Cree
Dick Richards (Navy)
LePort Spangler
Julian M. Caldwell
Mac Watts

Minnie Scott, Nurse
Corbett Carter
George Criss
Richard Criss
Harry Givens
Charles Hogue
Nell Kuhn, Nurse
W. C. Hoad
H. L. Chambers
Richard LaHue
Howard Morris (Navy)
Phil Sehon (Navy)
John Tupper
Clarence Morris

If we have missed some names, please let us know.

A big thank you to the following who have donated items to the museum:

• Pictures by Phyllis Martin.
• Chair from the Rowena Hotel by Roberta McClanahan.
• 1942 basketball picture by Bob Fisher.
• Piano recital picture by Frances Sanford.
• Graduation class of 1944 book by Iona Spencer.
• Unique scoop by Ralph Davis.
• World War II medals of Harold Hudson by his children.
• Flowers of Holy Land by Arloene Simmons.
• The Symphony of Life by Bruce Hoad Sr.
• Historic territory bonds and papers by Madalyn and Charles Scott.
• Family pictures by Christine Andis Brown.
• Handkerchief box which belonged to Elizabeth Bahnaier.
• Small hand gun used in 1856 by George Bahnaier by Joe Bahnaier.
• Navy suit from World War II which belonged to Raymond Rothwell.
• A saddle over 100 years old which belonged to T. J. W. Tarr by William O. Powell.
• Lecompton High School news articles and artifacts by Joyce Bahnaier.
• A picture by Marian Clark Hyatt.
• Paper clippings by Helen Henry.
• Christmas ornaments for the tree by Ruth and Randy Reed.
• A tape of a program about Lecompton on channel 6 by Muriel Manness.
• Unique walnut table and smoking cabinet by Lavina Hanna.
• Walnut board from the Rowena Hotel by Hazel Taylor Dyer
• McClanahan photos by Bill Cree.

Margaret Wulfkuhle Program Chairperson announces the following programs:

Sept. 8th, Sara Tucker will talk about Sod House Living on the Frontier.
Oct. 13, Rev. and Mrs. Gel Sampson will talk about the Philippines.
Nov. 10, Bruce Beresford will discuss his experiences as a W. W. II photographer.
Dec. 4, Annual Christmas Vespers.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Life Members:
James F. McClanahan
Elmer Fred Smith
Dorothy Ann Wulfkuhle
Dorothy Webster (Murphy)
Arthur G. McPherson
Joseph H. Hoage
Alumni Banquet

The 74th Annual Lecompton Alumni Banquet was held Saturday, May 28th with 191 in attendance. Wilma Glenn Tibbs, class of 1926, and Robert Gray, class of 1931, were the oldest male and female graduates in attendance.

Next year's reunion will be the 75th and plans are to invite as many former teachers as can be located to attend.

Thanks to the following who helped in some way to make this event possible:

Greg & Carol Howard; Sam & Laurie Smith; Jeff & Terrie Goodrick; Roy Harding; Nancy Howard; Bob Christman; Bob Morris; Stewart Morris; J. H. Vestal; Paul Bahnmaier and Ed Keating.

Out of staters in attendance were:

Doris Fleming Belden, Texas; Mae Norwood, Nebraska; Elmer Zeeb, Missouri; Barbara Roberts Carver, Arkansas; Robert Gray, Oklahoma; Don Baughman, California; Margaret Ewing Robards, California; Walt & Donna Confer, Nebraska; Ann Shields Dunaway, Florida; Ralph Hildenbrand, Michigan; Donna Hildenbrand Levings, Iowa; Peggy Forrester Sanford, Texas; Helen Shaffer Burton, Oklahoma; Russell Foree, Nebraska; Dale Foree, Arizona; Carolyn Mathew Stewart, Connecticut.

It has been learned that Eldon Mrstik, a history teacher and assistant coach from the 1957-1962 era, plans to attend next year's event.

OBITUARIES

Clyde Anno

Clyde Anno, Tecumseh, died May 17, 1994. He was born Dec. 13, 1916, in Tecumseh, the son of Claude and Elsie M. Beary Anno. He was a farmer and carpenter. He married Irene Winsor on Feb. 24, 1941. She survives. Other survivors include a son, Delbert; two daughters, Doris Auten and Dorothy Conaway; three sisters, Emra Rutledge, Ida Hall-Smith and Emma Wilson. Burial was Emmanuel Cemetery Berryton.

Raymond Thomas Nichols

Raymond Thomas Nichols, Stull, died April 22, 1994. He was born Sept. 22, 1921, near Stull, the son of Elmer and Sophia Ursula Brecheisen Nichols. He attended Kansas State University. He was a farmer and worked for Brink Real Estate. He was active in many farm related organizations. He married Catherine Baile on Oct. 6, 1946. She survives. Other Survivors include a son, David and a daughter, Virginia; two sisters, Delma Parks and Doris Danley. Burial was in Stull.

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 couple's membership. The dues from December to December. Life membership is $50 per individual. Contributions are tax deductable. Checks should be made payable to the Lecompton Historical Society, and mailed to Mrs. Iona Spencer, 1828 E 100 Road, Lecompton, KS 66050.

[ ] $4 Annual Individual Membership

[ ] $6 Annual Couple's Membership

[ ] $50 Individual Life or Memorial Membership

[ ] Other Contribution $____________

Name__________________________________Address__________________________________

City__________________________________State________________Zip________________________
Amos G. Geelan

Amos G. Geelan of Topeka died June 2, 1994. He was born Sept. 4, 1900 near Big Springs, the son of William and Mame Schott Geelan. He was employed in the office of the Santa Fe Railroad for 48 years. He married Eva May of Sept. 29, 1929. Survivors include a son, Lowell. He graduated from Lecompton High School and was active in several organizations.

Mary H. Anderson

Mary H. Anderson of Manhattan, died May 27, 1994. She was born Aug. 15, 1908 in Scranton, the daughter of Michael Alexander and Helen O'Brien Anderson. She was an Educator in Manhattan and was active in business and professional organizations. Survivors include two sisters, Teresa Giffin and Edna Lombard, two brothers, William and Leo. Burial was in St. Peters Cemetery, Big Springs.

Grace Elizabeth Blake Hiebert

Grace Elizabeth Blake Hiebert of Topeka died Feb. 25, 1994. She was born July 18, 1910 in Minneapolis, Miss., the daughter of Henry Seavey and Grace Elizabeth Riebeth Blake. She graduated from the University of Texas. She was a member of several professional organizations. She married Homer Hiebert on Aug. 29, 1935. Survivors include two daughters, Grace Beam and Sue Wester; three sons, Dr. John, Henry and David; a brother, David; and a sister, Alice Lee Blake. Burial was in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Helen M. Gulley

Helen M. Gulley of Topeka, died May 7, 1994. She was born Oct. 19, 1918 in Greenwood Valley, the daughter of Herb and Beulah Melon Wymer. She graduated from Lawrence Business College and worked for a plumbers union. She married Elmer Gulley on Sept. 12, 1942. He survives. Other survivors include a step daughter, Maxine Buchanan; a sister, Fern Leonard and a half sister, Darlene Daudet.

Frank C. Cozad

Frank C. Cozad of Topeka died May 14, 1994. He was born April 8, 1913 at Muscotah, the son of Clyde and Lenora May Heatherington Cozad. He was a farmer, employed in a California ship yard and a salesman for J. C. Penney's. He belonged to several organizations. He married Vivian Clark, she died and he married Jean E. Cuffman. She survives. Other survivors include two sons, Jim and Clyde; a step daughter, Connie Farmer. Burial was in Holton.

Ann Lasswell

Ann Lasswell of Emmett died July 21, 1994. She was born July 2, 1927 at Tecumseh, the daughter of Charles and Corina Harris Vausbinder. She married Francis E. Lasswell on Dec. 16, 1950. He survives. Other survivors include a son, Scott; a daughter, Terri; two brothers, Charles and John. She was a member of the Emmett United Methodist Church. Burial was at St. Clere.