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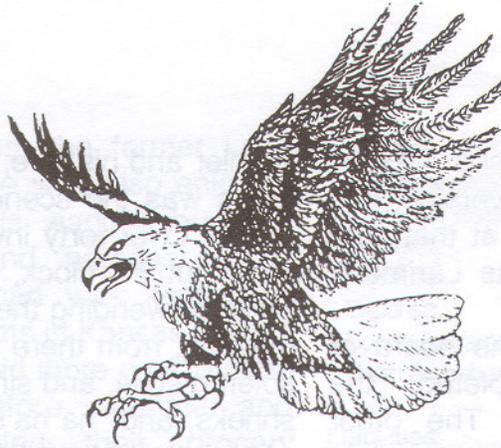
BALD EAGLE

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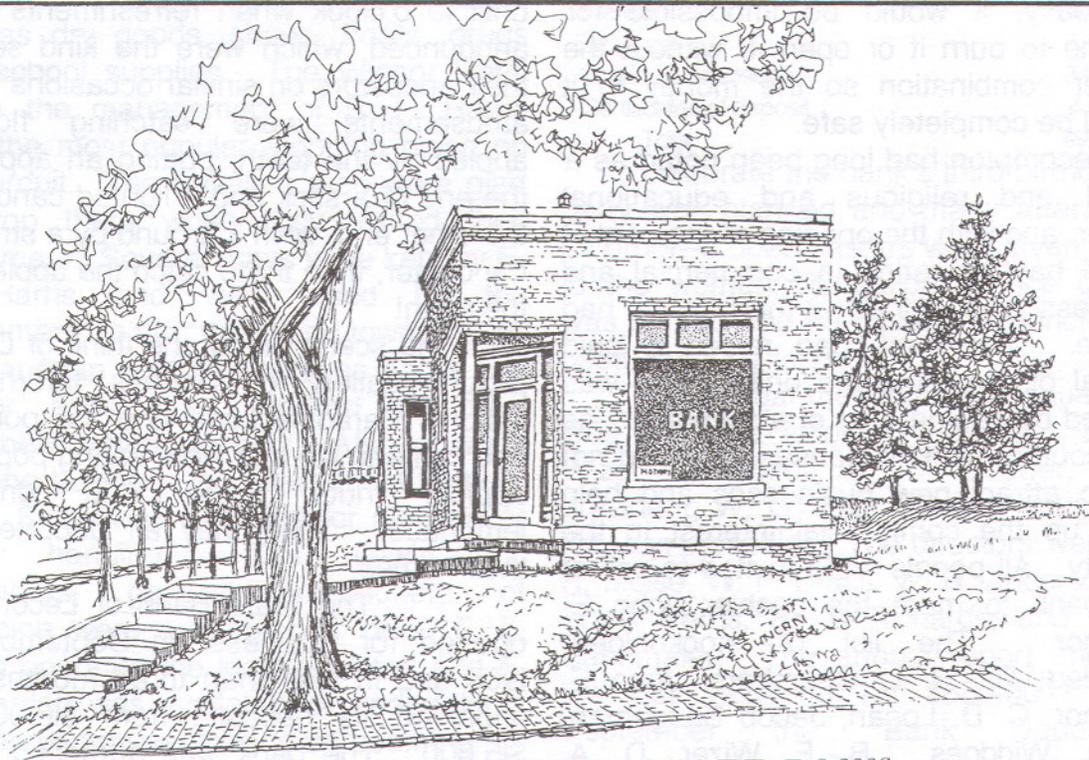


EAOC

VOL. 21, No. 2

LECOMPTON, KANSAS

SUMMER 1995



LECOMPTON STATE BANK

In the early 1900's Lecompton seemed to be gradually losing business as well as other opportunities to have a vibrant, lively town. As a result the local citizens in their discussions decided one of the items most needed was a local bank. In early 1904 a group organized and persuaded the local people to buy stock in a proposed town bank, and then make application to the state for a charter for a land bank. When the stock was nearly all subscribed, a meeting of the stockholders

were called to elect a board of directors and complete the organization. Bank fixtures were ordered, an area suitable rented, and shareholders were to meet to elect a director of the organization.

In August 1904, the bank organization was completed, and B. F. Wizer was elected president, E. P. Harris, vice president, and John E. Wagner, cashier. A safe had been ordered and arrived. The other fixtures would be put in the rooms that had been selected for the bank. This was in the southeast corner of

the former Lane University (Hotel Rowena) building, the University had moved to Holton in 1902 and at that time the building was operating as Larimer's farm equipment store.

On August 24, 1904, the board of directors met and completed the organization of the bank. The other fixtures had all arrived and were put in place along with the safe. The safe was so heavy, it would be impossible for anyone to burn it or open it, without the proper combination so the money in it would be completely safe.

Lecompton had long been noted as a moral and religious and educational center, and with the opening of the bank it would have a rating in commercial and business circles that it had never had before. The bank had raised a paid capital of ten thousand dollars and was backed by as fine a lot of stockholders as any country bank in Kansas. It could not fail to attract new businesses and help build up the commercial interest in the locality. All people were invited to call at the bank to meet the cashier John E. Wagner. The list of stockholders included: Dr. H. L. Chambers, John E. Wagner, C. D. Logan, Jacob Baughman, E. G. Widdoes, B. F. Wizer, D. A. Chapman, Percy Moise, M. M. Iliff, J. W. Zellars, J. H. Snyder, M. R. Winter, Grace H. Winter, John Damm, R. J. Richards, Wm. Young, Wm. Brass, A. Frank Kerns, E. P. Harris, Sr., A. G. Glenn, A. C. Walter, C. F. Bahnmaier, Henry Bahnmaier, G. J. Bahnmaier, A. D. McAdow and E. B. Leamer.

The bank was then set up so the taxes could be paid there instead of going to Lawrence, money could be borrowed and life insurance was available as was building insurance.

On November 4, 1904, the bank

cashier and his wife, Mr. & Mrs. Wagner's home was the scene of a big Halloween party. Over forty invitations were issued, so about 8 o'clock, ghostly figures could be seen wending their way to the place of meeting, from there the weird company in solemn style, and single file, amid groans, shrieks, and "ha ha's" reached the home where the ghosts, spooks, hobgoblins, brownies and fairies held high carnival until 10 o'clock when refreshments were announced, which were the kind served their ancestors on similar occasions. The amusements were catching floating apples by the teeth, putting an apple on the end of a stick and a lighted candle on the other end, whirl it around by a string in the center, then try to catch the apple with the teeth!

The scene made one think of Dores' picture gallery of Dante's Inferno or Milton's Paradise Lost, and the portraits had come to life and were eating popcorn, apples, nuts, cake and drinking lemonade. Then they all departed for their homes.

The State Bank of Lecompton opened for business on September 8, 1904 and in less than three months had improved its deposits from \$10,000 to \$15,000. The bank was attracting more attention to the town than any other single business for years. It had made a splendid record for careful business methods. If you had not opened an account then you were invited to do so. The officers were all well known in the community and their ability and honesty were above question.

Business in the town was flourishing. H. D. Larimer had worked up a splendid trade in spring wagons, buggies, stoves, hardware, glass, paint, etc., better than last year. He had a porch and awning built over the bank which was located in

his place of business, the former Lane University. Thos. Lee was also enjoying more trade in windmills, wagons, buggies, stoves, hardware and harness. Joe Brown the broom man was kept busy making the best brooms in Kansas.

S. W. Smith sold more coal to more people than ever before. Leamer and Leamer had doubled their grocery business. Iliff, Wark & Co. had added hats and bonnets to their grocery business as well as dry goods, shoes, boots, drugs and school supplies. The Winsor Hotel under the management of S. F. Harris was the most popular stopping place on the circuit. The traveling men were glad to stop there when they visited their customers. Several drays were kept by E. P. Harris and were used by the "drummers" to visit the inland towns. J. H. McClanahan kept five buggies and a fine surrey and was prepared to drive anywhere when needed. Also growing was the business in Zellars meat market. C. R. Shaw was available for painting or paper hanging. Drs. Lewis and Chambers, general practitioners of medicine were available on call. F. L. Kerns operated the local elevator, and F. C. Bartlett was available for undertaking. So Lecompton seemed to be booming.

On Jan 6, 1905 the Lecompton Bank Board of Directors consisted of H. L. Chambers, J. H. Snyder, W. F. Brass, G. J. Bahnmaier, R. T. Richards, John E. Wagnor, B. F. Wizer, E. P. Harris, Sr. and F. R. Moise. They met and elected B. F. Wizer president of the bank; E. P. Harris, Sr., Vice president; and John E. Wagnor, Cashier. The bank had made a good showing that year, and the bank stock had risen to an 8 % base. The cashier was also advertising farms for sale.

At the close of business Jan. 29, 1906, the Lecompton State Bank stated their

financial condition as:

Loans and Discounts	\$32,334.24
Loans on Real Estate	5,231.00
Overdraft	69.00
Furniture	1,050.00
Expense	162.39
Bonds & Warrants	364.42
Cash & cash exchange	9,841.60
Total	49,038.64
Liabilities:	
Capital Stock	\$10,000.00
Surplus Fund	200.00
Interest	210.00
Exchange	34.95
Individual deposits	34,618.76
Certificates of deposit	4,049.25
Total	49,083.64

To celebrate the bank's third birthday, a party was planned and many attended--as proof--8 dozen asters were given away to the women, 20 gallons of ice cream was served and 40 gallons of punch was used, but they ran out!

The annual meeting held January 10, 1908 had the following officers: B. F. Wizer, president, J. H. Snyder, vice president; W. G. East, cashier; and Zella Iliff, ass't. cashier. The directors were, P. R. Moise, W. F. Brass, W. R. Anderson, A. Frank Kerns, R. T. Richards, and G. J. Bahnmaier. The annual report showed the net value to be \$65,400.17. In September the "Bank Depositors Guarantee Law Officers" accepted the bank as a member of their organization and complimented them on the secure condition of the bank.

On Friday December 17, 1909, W. G. East sold the controlling interest of the bank to J. W. Kreider of Lawrence. The transfer took place January 1, 1910. Mr. East was going to Salem, Oregon where he and his brother would open a bank, which would be much larger than the Lecompton one.

Mr. Kreider knew the area well as he was the senior member of the Lawrence,

"Kreider and Troville Lumber Company". The resource report showed them to be \$78,888.17. By February, 1910, Mr. Kreider was negotiating for land from Frank Kerns for a bank building and lumber yard. The bank building plans were for a brick veneer building 20' X 40' X 17', finished in oak, the lobby 9' X 18', the counting room 17' X 18', the directors room 11 1/2' X 11 1/2', the vault area 6' X 7', and a toilet. Bids were due by May 10, 1910. The bank then let the contract with the most promising bid to J. L. Harris for \$1700., with the work to be done by August 1, 1910. A big opening was planned for September 2, but due to rain, it was postponed for September 3, 1910. It was to be an opportunity to visit the building and partake in a watermelon feast. Mr. Kreider had taken over the bank on April 10, 1910 with a balance of \$76,303.62. Hundreds attended the celebration despite the rains and threatened rain. The Board of Directors was Dr. J. H. Snyder, B. F. Wizer, W. R. Anderson, W. F. Brass and J. W. Kreider, and for the past four years, Zella Iliff had been the assistant cashier.

Mr. Kreider had a lumber yard built just to the west of the bank and sold lumber and helped people plan houses. He also took on the responsibility of renting people houses and selling real estate-houses, farms and lots. In January, 1911 after the annual bank meeting, and declaring the regular semi annual dividend of 5%, \$400. was passed to the surplus fund.

In 1924 Zella Iliff decided to resign from her cashier job and move to Topeka. As a result a new cashier had to be found. Mr. Kreider was made aware that Edna Lasswell (later Bahnmaier) had graduated from the local high school that spring and was attending business

college in Topeka. She was contacted and accepted the position under the training of Zella Iliff the assistant cashier. Zella left and Edna served there until her marriage in 1934. She helped for a time after her marriage until a replacement could be found. George Bahnmaier later was chosen and performed the cashier duties until the bank was closed.

The bank continued to prosper, but on August 18, 1925, it had some unwanted visitors.

DAYLIGHT HOLDUP

Tuesday morning three men drove up to the State Bank of Lecompton, two went inside leaving the driver at the wheel reading a paper, they walked to the inside door and ordered J. W. Kreider, cashier and Miss Edna Lasswell to lie face down on the floor and warned them not to move.

Rev. Paslay, came into the bank to get a check cashed but instead he was forced at the point of a revolver, to lie face downward with the other two. The two robbers took their own time perhaps half an hour searching for money, and they were very disgusted with Mr. Kreider because he didn't have more than \$1,500 on hand. One of the robbers accidentally stepped on Edna's hand, as she lay on the floor and kindly said, "Excuse me honey," then went on with his robbing.

After having looked in every possible place for money the two men gathered it up and went out to the car and drove off. Some of the citizens rather suspicious of the fellows when they went out of town so fast so George Whipple hurried over to the bank and found the three still on the floor.

At once the officers of Lawrence, Topeka and Kansas City were notified but about all they could find was the packard car they had abandoned out by Clyde Talley's house, three miles north of

Clinton, on account of a flat tire. They borrowed Mrs. Bert Fogarty's Ford coupe and drove on. Late in the afternoon it is believed they were seen going through Baldwin in a Dodge car.

The bank robbery made Lecompton an up-to date town now. (Taken from the Lecompton Sun, Thurs. Aug. 20, 1925)

As the two men were robbing the bank, one man remained in the car outside, reading, or (pretending to read) a newspaper to cover his face. Two young girls Margaret Baughman (Noe) and Sara Slavens (Walter) walked by just as he lowered the paper. They got a good look at him and wondered what he was doing there. Later when they found out about the robbery they told Mr. Kreider what they saw. They were subsequently caught and put on trial and the two girls were called as witnesses. The County Attorney asked each to point out the robber they saw and they pointed to a man, and said they thought he was the one. The Attorney asked them three times and they said they thought he was the one.

The men were convicted by the jury, and after trial as the girls were waiting in the hall for their ride home, the three "robbers" were escorted back to jail, the one the girls had recognized tried to poke one of them with his finger, and said, "I'll get you when I get out." It scared them, but he never showed up.

In November, 1942 the directors of the bank voted to close it and the following information was taken from The Journal-World of Nov. 28, 1942.

Lecompton Bank Will Liquidate

Today marked the end of the existence of the State bank of Lecompton, a banking institution in the county since

1904.

A statement issued to depositors today stated that the board of directors of the bank had decided to quit the banking business because of the age and health of J. W. Kreider, cashier of the bank since 1911.

Deposits of the bank have been transferred to the Lawrence National bank here for payment and are subject to the order of depositors in accordance with their deposit agreement with the Lecompton bank.

George Bahnmaier, assistant cashier of Lecompton bank, will become an employee of the Lawrence National bank and will be there to meet the former depositors of the Lecompton bank.

The liquidation of the bank will be in the hands of Karl M. Kreider, son of the present cashier. All payments owed to the bank or J. W. Kreider will be received at his office at 109 East Eighth street.

All checks drawn on the State Bank of Lecompton forms, which would have been paid by the Lecompton bank will be honored by the Lawrence National bank.

With the closing of the Lecompton bank, only four banks remain in the county, the two banks in Lawrence and banks at Eudora and Baldwin.

The deposits in the State Bank of Lecompton amounted to approximately \$150,000.

PROGRAMS

June 8: There will be a slide presentation on farm tours in Argentine and Brazil by Don Fuston.

July 13: Joyce Thierer will impersonate Calamity Jane. This program is funded impart by the Kansas Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment Humanities.

Thanks to the following these artifacts placed in the museum

1. Pictures , old wine bottle and sleigh bells by Phyllis Martin
2. Leather folder by Helen Hildenbrand
3. Antique Bench by the Robert Norwood family
4. Picture by Augusta Flory
5. Book by Thomas Goodrick
6. Picture of Gov. Stanton Home by Leavenworth Co. Historical Society
7. Antique desk, rocking chair, table bowl & pitcher by Elnora Armstrong Estate.
8. Books and pictures by Roberta French
9. Pictures by Willa Norwood
10. Books by Bob Woods
11. Picture Constitution Hall by Stacy & Tim Rues
12. Red hand made mittens by Mildred Saunders Lyons
13. Lane College Echoes
14. Plays by Howard Duncan
15. Newspapers by Opal Goodrick
16. John & William McClanahan Genealogy by Madalyn McClanahan Scott
17. Kansas Sunflower glasses by Donna Levings.
18. 1950's square dance pictures -Dorothy Shaner
19. Family & baseball pictures -Maxine Dark Bisel
20. Class picture of Starr School-Leah Mae Shaw

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Territorial Days, we will have a nice new plaque with the LIFE & MEMORIAL memberships names in the hall of Lane University Museum It will be lighted so it can be read easier.

Memorials to date-- 116

Life Members to date--560 Total 676

Life Members:

- Donald Keating
- Betty Sale (Bunn)
- Virginia Allen (Smith)
- Alan T. Fenstemaker
- John Nilsen
- George Person
- Susan Reed (Hagen)
- Larry Sanford
- Janet Tate (Gerleman)
- J. H. Vestal, Jr. and Artrice J. Vestal (Kent)
- Kathleen Greene (Eaton)
- W. Lester Stauffer and Betty Joyce (Crary)
- Doris Hupe Weaver

- Robert Reed Stevens
- James A. and Elaine Boose (McGonigal I)

TERRITORIAL DAY SCHEDULE

Friday-June 23 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Family night children's rides

Saturday-June 24

6:30-11:00 a.m.-Pancake Feed-Community Building

8:00 A.M. Softball Tournament

Sand Volleyball Tournament-887-6922

Horseshoe Tournament 887-6327

Frog and Turtle Races

8:00 to 10:00 A. M. Health Fair at Fire Station. For Blood sugar test be sure to fast before you take this test. Blood pressure test will also be given.

9:00 A. M. Lane Museum Opens

Constitution Hall Tours

Cancellation Stamp at Lane Museum

10:30 A.M. Judging Parade

11:00 A.M. PARADE 887-6075

Featuring the Big Red Army Band & Color Guard. (Constitution Hall-History in the making)

Prizes for adults \$60.00 & 30.00

Prizes for Children \$25.00, \$15.00 & \$10.00

11:30 A. M.

United Methodist Church Dinner

12:00 A.M. Antique Car Display

1:00 P.M.

CONSTITUTION HALL DEDICATION

3:00 P.M. Children games

4:00 P.M. Historic 107 year old Grand Piano Recital and Singing at United Methodist Church.

5:00 P.M. Ice Cream Social

Spencer's Country Music

6:00 P.M. Heart of America Sunflower Dance Group

7:00 P.M. Talent Show 887-6353

Prizes 16 & under \$50.00 & \$25.00

Prizes 17 & over \$50.00 & \$25.00

8:00 P.M. Award Ceremony

9:00 P.M. Evening concert by Bad Day Survivors

FOODS-CRAFTS-GAMES

For information call 913-887-6691

OBITUARIES

James W. Kreider

Mr. Kreider was born Sept. 11, 1859. He came with his family to Lawrence, Ks., in 1903 to send his children to school. He and his family lived in Oregon, Mo. before coming to Kansas. He was in the lumber business in Lawrence and active in the First Christian Church, which he helped to build.

In 1911 he came to Lecompton where he operated the bank and lumber yard until 1942 when he retired because of ailing health. Mr. Kreider was a man of keen business judgment and was prominent in the affairs of the county for many years.

He was married to Emma and to this union three children were born. One daughter Mrs. I. J. Stockwell, two sons, Charles C. and Karl Kreider.

Class of 1955 is NO. 1

The entire Lecompton High School graduating class of 1955 are now Life members of the Lecompton Historical Society. This is a first and we are very proud of the interest and concern expressed by this class for their home town,

Lloyd M. Talley

Lloyd M. Talley died March 4, 1995. He was born March 16, 1916, the son of Clyde and Jennie Murphy Talley. He owned and operated Talley's Welding in Lawrence. He was the founder of the Douglas County Genealogical Society and a Veteran of WW II. He married Fay Stainbrook Aug. 24, 1940, in Topeka, she survives. Other survivors include a son, Robert, and two daughters Betty Sue Moon and Martha Fay Sage. Seven grandchildren and six grandchildren. He attended the historical society faithfully.

Frances "Peggy" Beryl Moore

Frances "Peggy" Moore died February 26, 1995 in Mesa, Az. She was born May 28, 1908 at Lecompton the daughter of Wm. W. and Frances F. Fleenor Drake. She was married to Fred Hill Moore Mar. 7, 1932 at Lecompton. He died in 1963 in Florida. She moved to Arizona in 1986 to live with her sister Dorothy Drake Baughman. Survivors include a sister Winifred Fudge, a niece Beverly Haefele and nephew Wm. C. Springer.

Minnie Sutton

Minnie Sutton died April 6, 1995. She was born Nov. 16, 1895, in Richland, the daughter of Wm. and Anna Mary Nuffer Lutz. She was married to Harry Sutton Feb. 24, 1920 in Kansas City, Ks. He died Mar. 18, 1961.

She lived south of Lecompton and farmed with her husband for 62 years. She was a member of several organizations. Other survivors include a sister, Ida Krouse

*****Please Clip and Mail With Your Check*****

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 are 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 Iona Spencer, 1828 E. 100 Rd. Lecompton, KS 66050

- () \$4.00 Annual Individual Membership
- () \$6.00 Annual Couple's Membership
- () \$50.00 Individual Life or Memorial Membership
- () Other Contribution \$ _____

NAME _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Rev. Charles E. Scott

Rev. Charles E. Scott died March 30, 1995. He was born Aug. 27, 1917 the son of Oscar and Agnes Miller Scott. He attended York College and the University of Kansas. He married Madalyn McClanahan in 1941. She survives.

Other survivors are a daughter, Roberta Hanika and two sons Larry and Frank; two sisters Ruth Carson and Frances Schuler, 10 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. He was a minister in several churches in eastern Kansas.

Stephen L. Jewett

Stephen L. Jewett died April 7, 1995. He was born April 20, 1944 the son of John and Mavis Leisure Jewett. He attended the University of Kansas. He was a textbook coordinator at the University of Kansas Bookstore. He founded the Trails Nash Club and belonged to several antique car clubs. He was married to Edna E. Griffin, she survives, a stepson, Richard Willits; a step daughter Licia Crawford; two sisters Genevieve Carter and Martha Abbey and two step-grandchildren.

Daisy E. Wingfield

Daisy E. Wingfield died April 11, 1995. She was born Aug. 19, 1907 the daughter of Howard and Adah Durbin Bair. She graduated from Emporia State University and was a teacher for 36 years. She had taught in several western Kansas schools before she moved to Lecompton and taught at Lecompton, Big Springs and Williamstown. She retired from Perry High school in 1969.

She was an active member of many organizations. She married Oliver Wingfield May 18, 1940 at Perry. He died Nov. 4, 1990. Survivors include a son Richard; a daughter Merta Fulton; six grandchildren and a great grandson.

Daisy had many talents including music, poetry, positive thinking and her great smile.

Olivette Jane Wulfkuhle

Olivette J. Wulfkuhle died May 2, 1995 at Topeka. She was born July 18, 1905 at St. George., the daughter of Oliver J. and E. Mae Hofmann Scritchfield. She earned a teacher's degree from Emporia Collge.

She was married to Walter H. Wulfkuhle June 10, 1946, in Kansas City. She and Walter farmed north of Stull. He died July 18, 1992.

Survivors include seven hephews and three nieces. (She was Iona Spencer's 4th grade teacher at Highland Park grade school.)

REMEMBER TO ATTEND THE DEDICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION HALL CEREMONY AT 1:00 P.M. JUNE 24TH. ALL DESCENDANTS OF GEORGE W. ZINN WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT THIS CEREMONY. This includes the descendants of John G. and Mary Zinn McClanahan and Alexander G. and Elizabeth Zinn Glenn.

President* Paul Bahnmaier
Vice President * Rich McConnell
Secretary * Marie Traxler
Treasurer * Betty Leslie
Board Members * Maxine Dark, Bruce Beresford
George Simmons, David Paslay, Ralph Davis, Ron Meier
Curators * Marguerite Bowman, Opal Goodrick, Dorothy Shaner
George & Arloene Simmons, David & Darlene Paslay
Membership Ass'ts. *Duane & Dorothy Wulfkuhle

Historical Writer * Sara Walter
Genealogical Writer & Membership * Iona Spencer
Illustrator*Ellen Duncan
Tours*Charlene Winter
Funding*Mae Holderman
Program *Margaret Wulfkuhle
Assistant Treasurer *Sherri Neill
Kitchen * Helen Hildenbrand
Memorials* Ruth Ice

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LECOMPTON, KANSAS 66050

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