

The LHS Newsletter Archive

# BALD EAGLE

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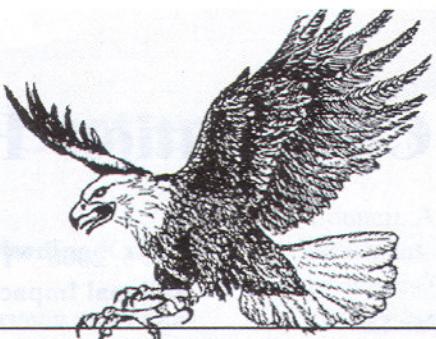


Photo from Hetrick Archive, Territorial Capital Museum

In the Philippines for the Spanish American War of 1898, the "Gorilla Squad." Lecompton's Charlie Hetrick, second from the left in the rear rank and with an "x" he placed himself, was a strapping six feet, two inches tall. In fact all of the members of the "Gorilla Squad" were at least that tall.

## The Autobiography of Lecompton's War Hero Major Charlie Hetrick

Last summer Gilbert Hetrick of Linxe, France, visited the Territorial Capital Museum. He was looking for information about his father, including his gravesite. Our President Paul Bahnmaier and Genealogist Iona Spencer took Gilbert to Maple Grove Cemetery where his father, Charles Elmer Hetrick, is buried. Instead of Gilbert thanking Paul and Iona and returning quietly to France, he asked questions about his father's birth and early years in Lecompton

and then told us that he would send the first two sections of his father's autobiography with a selection of

*continued on page 5*

### Constitution Hall 'Bleeding Kansas' Series Grows Even More Popular

2006 began the tenth anniversary of the "Bleeding Kansas" program series at Constitution Hall. The series began in March 1997 with a talk titled "Clinton Lake: The Heart of Bleeding Kansas" by Martha Parker, Director of the Clinton Lake Museum. Over fifty history programs have been presented the last ten years to standing room only crowds inside Constitution Hall. It is all due to Tim Rues, Constitution Hall Site Administrator. This year was no exception. Please see pictures and capsules of presentations on Pages 2 and 3.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### 2006 Calendar

June 17 – Annual Lecompton High School Alumni banquet.

June 23-24 – Territorial Days

June 24-25 – Civil War Reenactors Fight The Battle of Ft. Titus 1:30 p.m each day

Sept. 22-24 – Bald Eagle Rendezvous

### Terrific Opportunity!

*For History Buffs, Antiques Lovers, Neatniks, People Persons*

Everything keeps getting bigger and better in Lecompton and especially at the Territorial Capital Museum in Lane University. We at the Lecompton Historical Society have some really good times putting together new displays, giving tours to people from all parts of the world, publishing the *Bald Eagle*, organizing for the Rendezvous and Territorial Days...and becoming members of the Lecompton Reenactors. Now would be the time for anyone who loves people and history to pitch in and enjoy our town and our history. Stop by the Museum in Lane University to volunteer or give us a call at 887-6148. Maybe you or a friend would enjoy this opportunity.

# Constitution Hall's 10th Annual

Jan. 29, 2006 (Kansas Day) "Hell Bent For Lawrence: D.R. Anthony Rides With News of Kansas Statehood"



Candy Ruff

by Kansas State Representative **L. Candy Ruff**. Special introduction by Kansas State Historical Society Executive Director **Jennie Chinn**.

"In celebration of Kansas Day, January 29, L. Candy Ruff shared with a standing room only crowd the story of how news of statehood reached Kansas Jan. 29, 1861. With so few commercial telegraph lines servicing Kansas at the time, one line reached the downtown offices of D.R. Anthony, editor of the Leavenworth Daily Conservative, forerunner of the Leavenworth Times. Anthony, the brother of Susan B. Anthony, anticipated the news with plans to share the event on a broadsheet, a one-page special edition of the newspaper. When the telegram arrived from Washington declaring the Congressional vote final, he finalized the stories and printed several thousand copies. Although Leavenworth was the new state's commerce and financial center, Lawrence was headquarters for Free State supporters. Realizing their anticipation of the news, Anthony is said to have ridden Hell Bent to Lawrence with the broadsheets stuffed into his saddle bags. He arrived later in the evening, taking part in a celebration that extended through the night."

Candy lives in and represents the Leavenworth area in the state legislature. She is a former newspaper reporter and is finishing her MS in History from the University of Kansas. Candy was introduced by Jennie Chinn. Jennie autographed her newly-released middle school Kansas history text book titled: "The Kansas Journey."

Feb. 5, 2006 "The Civil War Started Here: The National Impact of Events in Territorial Kansas"



John Sacher

by Professor **John Sacher**, Emporia State University.

Professor Sacher argued before an enthusiastic and capacity audience that the first shots of the US Civil War were in fact fired on the prairies of Kansas Territory during a period known as "Bleeding Kansas." Dr. Sacher's historical commentary can be seen in the documentary film titled, "Touched By Fire: Bleeding Kansas."

Feb. 12, 2006 "A Newspaperman in Bleeding Kansas"



Ed Hoover

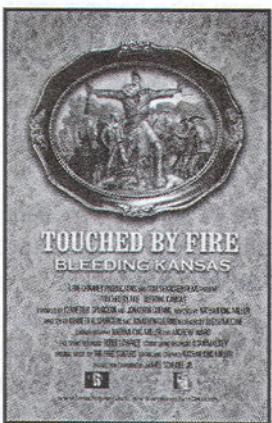
by **Edward Hoover**, proprietor of the Kansas Territorial Press Museum.

Ed Hoover is a familiar face in Lecompton as a member of the Lecompton Reenactors. Normally, Ed is seen playing the characters of Sheriff Jones or John Stringfellow. But for this program, he took on the persona of Edward Raymond, a Kansas squatter from Virginia who struggles to start a paper in tumultuous "Bleeding Kansas." Lecompton Reenactor acting troupe creator and playwright Howard Duncan had this to say about Ed's performance: "I have attended every lecture lo these many years which have been given in Constitution Hall as part of the Bleeding Kansas series. None of them were better than the show you gave February 12th !!!!!!! You researched your material well and presented it flawlessly."

(Continued on page 3)

# Bleeding Kansas' Lecture Series

Feb. 19, 2006 "Touched By Fire: Bleeding Kansas"



by Ken Spurgeon and Jonathon Goering.

Independent documentary filmmakers Ken Spurgeon and Jonathon Goering from Lone Chimney Productions in Wichita showed excerpts from their 2005 DVD release "Touched By Fire: Bleeding Kansas." Ken & Jonathon looked at the film overall, why they decided to make the film, production challenges

they faced and what they hoped viewers learned from the film. In addition, Ken & Jonathon talked about their new documentary, "Bloody Dawn, The Lawrence Massacre," which is currently in production. This film will be based on the book "Bloody Dawn" by the award-winning author Tom Goodrich a hometown Lecompton boy. Ken and Jonathon signed copies of their DVD for an appreciative audience.

Mar. 5, 2006 "Revolutionary Heart: Clarina Nichols and the Pioneering Crusade for Women's Rights,"



Diane Eickhoff

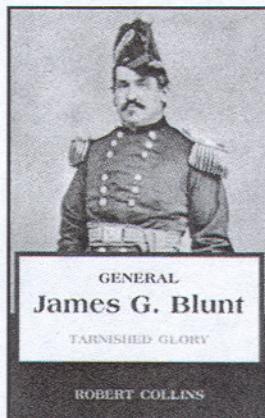
by Diane Eickhoff

Biographer Diane Eickhoff talked about her new book, "Revolutionary Heart." The book is the first-ever biography of pioneer reformer Clarina Nichols who abandoned her rising star in the East to work for freedom and women's rights in Kansas in 1854. "Most folks think the history of early Kansas is the story of men and guns," said Eickhoff, "but people like

Nichols helped lay the groundwork for peace and progress here. That story has never been told." Eickhoff portrayed Nichols in the 2004 "Bleeding Kansas" Chautauqua, sponsored by the Kansas Humanities

Council. After the talk she signed copies of her book, which has already gathered acclaim from academic reviewers (but is written for general readers). Diane and her husband, Aaron Barnhardt, television critic writer & columnist for the "Kansas City Star," are members of the Lecompton Reenactors.

Feb. 26, 2006 "Doctor Blunt in Kansas Territory: Life of General James G. Blunt"



by Robert Collins.

Andover, Kansas, historian and free lance writer Robert Collins discussed the prewar career of General James G. Blunt, Kansas' highest ranking and most important Civil War general. Collins is the author of a new biography of General Blunt. He talked about Blunt's work for the abolitionist cause, his acquaintance with

John Brown, and his part in the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention. Collins signed copies of his Blunt book and took questions about aspects of Blunt's life, and about his other projects, including a soon-to-be published biography of James H. Lane.



**Constitution Hall Today:**

The construction of Constitution Hall was begun in 1856. In the 1850s it was U.S. District Land Office, U.S. District Courtroom and home to the Second Territorial Assembly and the Lecompton Constitutional Convention. The building served as a public and private hall into the 1920s. In 1974 it was designated a National Historic Landmark and 1986 it became a State of Kansas historic site.

# Lecompton's Charles Elmer Hetrick: Shipwreck Survivor, World Traveler And Hero of Two Wars



## U.S. Army Major Who Married the Daughter of a French Count

*An Autobiography,  
By Charles Elmer Hetrick*

Chapter One – The Green Years,  
Lecompton 1879-1898

I was born in a rather large log house situated about 6 ½ miles west and a little north of Lawrence, Kansas, in Lecompton Township, Douglas County. This important event happened on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 1879. My father and mother had been married in Ohio the year before and had migrated to Kansas where they rented the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Banks and were living with them at the time of my birth. I was named after Mr. Banks. The year following my father bought a farm one mile west of there where they resided for about 50 years before selling out.

My first recollection of anything was when I

was a little over two years old when my parents took a trip to Ohio; my sister Maude was only a few months old. In our car on the train was a man who had a parrot in a cage that was hanging above his seat and I have never forgotten that bird.

### The Butcher Knife Incident

At the age of three, my mother had been in the garden to cut some lettuce and coming back to the house she gave me a big butcher knife that she had been carrying and I found nothing better to do than to nearly cut off one of my fingers. I carry the scar yet after over half a century. At the age of four my father bought me a pair of red-topped, copper-toed boots that I will never forget. At the age of five, I started to go to the Barker school 1 ¾ miles from our house. The first day my teacher sent me home with a note that I was already too advanced to be in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade and asked my parents to get books for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: My mother had been teaching me for a long time.

The first few years of school passed very well until my sister Maud started to come with me. I did not like that very much as she was only too ready to tell my parents when I got into any devilry. About the same time I commenced to hunt and I had a nearby neighbor boy a year or so older than I who was always with me. We had no guns but with our dogs we would chase rabbits into stone walls, as there were lots of stone walls enclosing fields and pastures and by pulling out a few rocks we would get the rabbit. My father had an old army musket that had served in the Civil War. My comrade and I would carry that heavy old gun around with us although our folks would not allow us to have any ammunition. Finally at the age of seven my father bought me a .32 caliber rifle and I became a full-fledged hunter.

I always rode the farm horses and even when I was 4 or 5 years old, when my mother wished to go to the neighbors, she would take a large black horse named "Prince" and with me behind her and my two baby sisters in her arms she would go anyplace she wished to. About my 6<sup>th</sup> year my father and a neighbor bought one of the first self-binders in the region, and as it was the only one around, all the neighbors wanted their grain cut with it. The machine worked day and night during harvest time. Four horses were used to pull it and our neighbor's boy, a couple years older than me, rode the head horse during the night and I rode during the day.

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## **Chapter One – The Green Years** (Cont'd from page 4)

### **A Whopping 12-Pound Baby**

I was always big and strong from my age, weighing 12 pounds when I was born. At 7 years of age I could harness my team and do nearly a man's work during the summer months when there was no school.

Every Sunday we would go to Sunday School and then listen to the preaching at the school house. My folks, while not being very religious, followed the precepts of the Bible teachings and tried to bring we children up in the spirit of true Christianity that is: "Do unto others as you would them do unto you." In winter time the boys and girls of the neighborhood would have skating parties on the lake (Lakeview) about four miles from home. When the ice was thick enough, we would drag logs and brush to the middle of the lake and have a big bonfire on the ice; if the ice were not thick enough yet we would have the fire on shore. The first hard freeze that made ice enough to skate, we would sometimes hunt fish that would swim around with their nose against the ice looking for an air hole. We would stun them with a sharp blow on the ice with the back of an axe then cut a hole in the ice to get them.

In the summer time we would fish in this same lake, catching sun perch and catfish, until a club from Lawrence rented or bought Lakeview and put guards there,

but we would go any way, generally in the night, and the guards would have their hands full trying to keep us away. After the age of 7, during the summer months and Saturdays for the rest of the year, I worked on the farm with my father doing a man's work. For the Fourth of July I got at least 25 cents to spend as I wished and needless to say it went into firecrackers and a few Roman candles. Also, every year there was the County Fair in Lawrence and I always had 25 to 30 cents to spend for side shows, candy, etc. For amusement in the neighborhood, we would go to spelling contests at school, singing at school, sometimes an oyster supper to raise money for the minister, but all were given at the school house.

### **Quadrilles in the New Barn**

Sometimes we would have a party at the house of some of the young folks, or we would give a surprise party on some one, each one bringing something good to eat. The older young people and some young married folk would give dances. I remember two that we had at our place in a big new barn that we had just built. I remember well the fiddlers who would call the numbers of the quadrilles, as at that time they did not dance other sorts of dances in the country; very few knew how to waltz or polka.

I remember also about my 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> year when

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### **Lecompton's War Hero, Major Charlie Hetrick** (Continued from page 1)

pictures. He did and it recounts the remarkable and memorable life of Major Charles Hetrick, USA.

Imagine the experiences of this young man from Lecompton. The first chapter of his autobiography chronicles his life growing up in Lecompton and it's a heart-warming tale of a youngster who had an awfully good time. When the Spanish-American War began in 1898, Charlie Hetrick was among the first to volunteer. He was member of the 20<sup>th</sup> Kansas Volunteer Infantry that crossed the Pacific to fight in the Philippines. He traveled to Hong Kong, Japan and Hawaii before coming home.

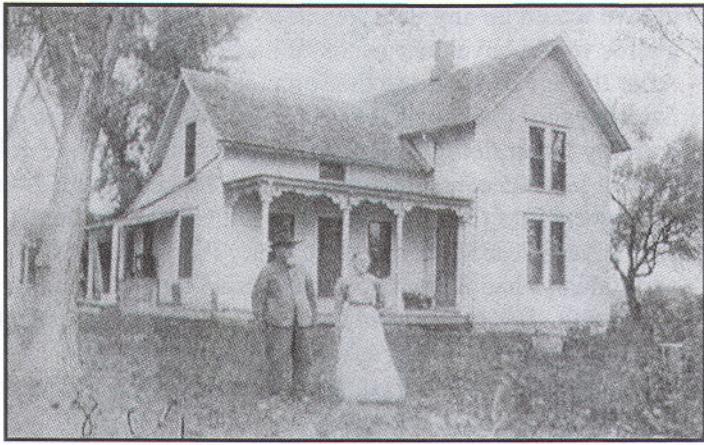
After the war he remained in California, working on the railroads serving the lumberyards and mines. He suffered through two unsuccessful marriages before the outbreak of World War One. Lt. Hetrick was among the first to volunteer for the United States Army's Expeditionary Force that fought in France. He ultimately commanded a regiment, a "shock troop"

which often led attacks against German lines.

When the war was over then Captain Hetrick delivered relief supplies to Russia and Estonia before returning to France where he married Marie Madeleine Murat de Pujol, the granddaughter of a count. He was promoted to Major at Christmas 1919 and remained in the Army until his retirement. He and his wife then moved into her family's chateau in southern France, where Gilbert was born and lives today.

Major Hetrick visited Lecompton several times, always to see his parents, Noah and Minerva Hetrick, who lived for 50 years on a farm east of Lecompton. He died in 1944, a much decorated war hero.

The *Bald Eagle* reprints excerpts of the first chapter of his autobiography, which tells of his Kansas years. The Museum also has a wonderful selection of pictures that Gilbert Hetrick sent. The Hetrick collection also includes several letters printed over the years in the Lecompton Sun. It is anticipated that the full Hetrick autobiography will be available in its entirety on line later this year. We have the first three parts in the Museum now.



Noah and Minerva Hetrick in front of their farm. The Hetrick family settled on the property where the Cecil Allen family lived in the 1950s and 1960s. It is currently owned by the Reed family. The Hetricks later moved to what is now the Francis "Sonny" Foley property.

## Chapter One – The Green Years

(Cont'd from page 5)

electricity came to use in Lawrence, and the installation of arc-lights in the streets, and not long after the incandescent globes were invented.... At the age of 12 I had graduated from the ninth grade, but my folks decided to send me for another year to take sort of a post-graduate course with algebra and German extra. All went well until the latter part of the winter, when I was seated with a girl of my age. As the seats and desks were arranged by two by two, this girl had been doing something to tease me and I whispered and told her if she done it again I would kiss her. I guess that was what she wanted and I kissed her. Just as luck would have it, the teacher looks up and saw me, and ordered me to take my books and change my seat. I told her I would take my books and go home first. She would not give in, so I packed up my books and went home. On my arriving home, there was a stormy scene, and at the end it was decided that I would start school at Lane University the following week with the start of Spring time.

### On to Lane University

Lane University was situated in the small town of Lecompton, five miles west of our place. My father bought me an Indian pony and as the classes were all in the morning, I would leave home about 7 o'clock and come home for dinner. I would study in the afternoon. I do not think I earned very much during the 3 ½ years I went to Lane University, except all sorts of devilry. Halloween night we boys would put on masks, turn our coats inside out, and turn the town upside down. More than once I played hooky and went fishing, but not very often as I was afraid to get caught. One great sport was the night after our college society, a number of boys,

students like myself that lived out of town, we would get on our saddle horses and leave town shooting our revolvers, yelling and running our horses like mad men.

My folks wanted to educate me to be a teacher or preacher, but I had not the least inclination in that line. The last three years I followed a course of business.

At 14, I was somewhat stuck on a girl who lived in the Kanwaka district about six miles from home. We were both invited to a party about 12 miles from home and as I wanted to take this girl to the party I found nothing better to do than borrow a cart and harness from a neighbor and hitch up my pony who had never had a harness on her back. I hitched up and the pony started running and kicking. She kept that up for a couple miles, then tamed down and by the time I arrived at my girl's house she would trot along as if she had done nothing else all her life.

### Rough Road Home

All went well till we started home from the party when another boy who was rather put out, as he also had an eye on this girl, came tearing along in his light road wagon. In passing me, one of his wheels hooked my cart wheel, turning us over and bending the axel of my cart so the wheel stood out about two feet from straight. This boy was upset also, but he quickly straightened up his buggy and left on the run. He caught up with some other young fellows who were a horseback and they started to yelling and shooting their revolvers. I pulled my revolver and shot a few times in their direction and they went on about their business. About that time, my girl's brother came along in the buggy of a lady and her daughter who were going our road. I sent my girl with them and her brother stayed with me. I got home all right and had a big time explaining to my folks in the morning what had happened and then had to take the axel to the blacksmith shop to be straightened.

I had a fight with the boy who upset us later on at a skating party. I don't know who got the worst of the fight as we were both pretty well used up when the others pulled us apart. Sometime later the same girl was married to another young man and I led the gang to chivarry them.

In 1894 when I was 15 my mother and youngest sister and I went back to Ohio. One thing I have never forgotten on this trip was when my cousin, of the same name as myself, and I were running around over my father's old home place and saw some persimmons. I was asked if I had ever tasted them. I took one bite and as they were green yet, my mouth became so puckered in an instant that I could not get a grape that we had been

(Continued on page 7)

## Chapter One – The Green Years

(Continued from page 6)

eating into my mouth. I remember also that my grandfather Engler, who was about 60, was nearly as spry as I was and could jump and kick as I could. He and I cut a bee tree on his place, getting a couple milk pails full of honey.

### Out into the World

I wanted to get out and work for myself and see the country. The summer after I left the University I hired out during the thrashing season as water-boy and as soon as the season was over I hired out on a place southwest of Lecompton herding cattle. I imagined that I was a full-fledged cowboy. While at this place I got drunk for the first, last and only time in my life. Because Kansas was under Prohibition, several of us had sent to Kansas City, MO for a two-gallon jug of whisky to celebrate the election. That evening with another young fellow in my buggy and a comrade on his horse, we went out to the Glenn school house where there was a revival being held. It was cold and as soon as we were in the warm building the whisky started to have its effect.

### The Preacher Intervenes

The preacher soon noticed us and came very quietly to ask us to leave and we had yet enough good sense to do so. We came back to town and I do not remember what I did there as all was a blank to me, but I have a faint recollection of the town Marshall getting in the buggy with me and at the edge of town he left me. A bout a half mile further I felt that I wanted to vomit and leaned out to do so and fell out of the buggy and the wheel passed over me. Then my horse stopped. Two of the boys living out that way were keeping an eye on me. They helped me back in the buggy and one got in with me. When we got to where I was working I told him I could get to bed. I did so but I woke up in the morning with all my clothes on. I had taken off my shoes but my hat was on my head yet. And such a head!

I was 18 when I was herding cattle, and during the winter of 1898 the man I was working for did not need me anymore; so I went to work for a man who had a contract cutting down a rock bluff on the Santa Fe R.R. just on the outskirt of Lecompton. Under the rock was a four-feet-thick slate formation so the

contractor sublet a contract to me and another young man to cut out and load this slate on the rail cars. He furnished the dynamite and we could make \$2 a piece a day at this work and working otherwise we only get \$1.25 a day, so we were very happy to take the contract.

### War with Spain

About this time the war clouds with Spain were getting thicker, and one Monday about the last of April 1898 I arrived in Lecompton after being home over Sunday. I found that war had been declared (the Spanish-American War of 1898) and a call for volunteers was out.

I turned my interests over to my partner and caught the first train and enlisted in Co. A of the 20<sup>th</sup> Kansas Volunteer Infantry at Topeka. The second day I got permission to run home to say goodbye to my folks. I arrived home about midnight and when I came in the house my father called out and asked who was there. I answered and went to bed. The next morning I went to the stable and was taking care of the horses as I always did when home. My father came by the cow stable and said, ‘Well, if you are going to be a soldier be one!’ and went on to the house. It was not so simple with my mother, but she was brave about my leaving. I left for Topeka the same morning and the next day we went into camp in Topeka on the State Fair Grounds.



Photo from Hetrick Archive,  
Territorial Capital Museum

*Corporal Tom Davidson from Lecompton, Kansas, 20th Kansas Infantry. A friend of Charlie Hetrick's, Corporal Davidson was wounded in battle in 1899 in the Philippines. The two volunteers left Lecompton in 1898 to fight in the Spanish-American War.*

## OBITUARIES

**Hoffsommer. Paul Kendal**, 97, Overbrook, passed away October 30, 2005. He was born January 26, 1908, near Stull, Ks., the son of Adam and Mary Manshardt Hoffsommer.

He was a member of Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church and a Life member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

He married Irene Roller on Feb. 24, 1934. She survives. Other survivors include two sons, Dean Hoffsommer and wife, Addie, Gary Hoffsommer and wife Karen, both of Overbrook, six grandchildren and four step-grandchildren, thirty-one great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren.

Burial in Topeka Cemetery.

**Winburn, Norma Jane**, Granada Hills, Calif. She was born Feb. 11, 1920 in Lecompton, Ks., the daughter of Walter Olen and Hazel Bertschinger McClanahan.

She graduated from Lecompton High School in 1937. She was a member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

She married Charles Winburn at Long Beach June 1983.

While attending the University of Kansas, she was employed at the student hospital.

She is survived by her husband Charles of the home and a brother Fritz McClanahan of Topeka.

Burial in Maple Grove Cemetery, Lecompton.

**Corbin, Wayne Edward**, 68, Lecompton, passed away Nov. 26, 2005. Wayne was born May 13, 1937 in Burlington, Ks., the son of Vernie 'Pete' and Helen Corbin.

He served in the Kansas National Guard for 8 years. He was a Life member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

He married Beverly Weide, Oct. 4, 1958 in Yates Center, Ks. She survives of the home.

Other survivors include two sons, Jerry and wife Kim, Lecompton; Steve and wife Kerry of Topeka; two daughters Becky Ewy and husband Chuck, Neosho Rapids, and Cindy Johnston of Lecompton; 13 grandchildren, and 2 brothers: Norman Corbin of Topeka, and Jim Corbin of Gridley

Burial Eastview Cemetery at Big Springs, Ks.

**Norwood, Wesley McFarland**, 77, Lawrence, died Nov. 27, 2005. He was born Mar. 10, 1928, in Lecompton, the son of Robert Moses and Bessie Edith Jackson Norwood.

He graduated from Lecompton High School in 1947. He joined the U.S. Navy and served 18 months in Guam

and was discharged in Jan. 1949.

He was a member of the First United Methodist church and a member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

He married Doris Annie Newman Jan. 15, 1950, in Baldwin. She survives, of the home.

Other survivors include two sons, Brian W. and Gregg A., both of Lawrence; a brother, James T. Norwood, Cheney, Wash.; a sister, Helen Elizabeth Norwood, Lawrence and six grandchildren.

Burial in Maple Grove Cemetery at Lecompton, Ks.

**Goodrich Evelyn Chrystine**, 78, Lecompton, died Nov. 30, 2005.

She was born Oct. 18, 1927, in Coalville, the daughter of Hubert and Goldie Miller Turner.

She was a Life member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

She married Earl Goodrich in 1952. He died in 1985.

Survivors include a son, Michael Thomas Goodrich, Topeka; a grandson; a step-granddaughter; and caregivers Brian and Patrice Kelley.

Burial in Maple Grove Cemetery, Lecompton, Ks.

**Kampschroeder, Helen G. Jeffries Wilt**, 92, Rossville, died Dec. 5, 2005. She was born June 21, 1913 the only daughter of Isham and Rozella Maddox Jeffries at Silver Lake.

She was a member of the Rossville United Methodist Church and also a Life member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

She married Roy Wilt, Feb. 2, 1937 and lived in Rossville 28 years. To this union two children were born, Lynda Ann and Robert R. Wilt. Robert was killed in a truck accident in 1974. She married Clyde H. Kampschroeder . and in 1992, he was killed in a tractor accident.

She is survived by her daughter, Lynda Ann Wood, Rossville, three grandchildren and one great grandson.

Burial in Rossville Cemetery.

**Smith, Leonard Lee**, 55, Carbondale, passed away Dec. 27, 2005. He was born Feb. 23, 1950, in Lawrence the son of William and Dorothy Checksfield Smith.

He was raised in Lecompton and was a Life member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

He married Kathy Payne Dec. 10, 1990 at Miami, OK. She survives.

Other survivors include his mother Dorothy Smith of Topeka; children, William 'Bill' Smith; Marissa Smith, and Janee Smith all of the home; Laura Van Donge and

## OBITUARIES

Caressa Smith of Topeka; a brother William Wayne Smith, of Topeka; half-brothers, Delbert Smith of Lawrence and Ernest Smith of Lecompton; his ex-wife Jima M. Morrissey and four grandsons.

Burial in Maple Grove Cemetery, Lecompton.

**Buchheim, Harry**, 82, Lecompton died Jan. 10, 2006. He was born July 14, 1923, in Lawrence, the son of Herman A. and Lola Shaw Buchheim.

He graduated from Lecompton High School in 1942.

He was a member of the Stull United Methodist church and also a Life member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

He married Malverna Senior on June 2, 1956, in California, Mo. She survives of the home. Other survivors are nieces and a nephew.

Burial in Stull Cemetery, Stull, Ks.

**Yost, Alfred J.**, 75, Lawrence, died Jan. 14, 2006. He was born June 6, 1930, in Alexander, the son of Adam John and Lydia Georg Yost.

He served in the U. S. army during the Korean conflict from Jan. 1953 until Jan. 1955.

He purchased the Rumsey Funeral Home in Lawrence in 1978, which later became Rumsey-Yost Funeral Home & Crematory, where he worked until his death.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Lawrence and was a Life member of the Lecompton Historical Society.

He married Fleda Ann "Shorty" Drake on June 5, 1955, in Ottawa. She survives of the home.

Other survivors include two sons, Brad, Fairway, and Bart, Lawrence; a sister Martha Nemeth, Topeka; and two grandchildren.

Burial in Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence, Ks.

## Membership Report

### Memorial Life Memberships:

Dean Wilson by his wife Elaine Wilson

### Life Memberships:

Elaine Wilson

Billie Jean Richards

Everett William Dexter and

Erin Lee (Dexter) Golden and

Nicole Dawn (Dexter) Murdock by their father

Jason Dexter

Bruce Liese

Cathy Tripp

Donita B. (Baxter) Boerger by husband Paul

\*\*\*\*\*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 \$5.00 per year for individual membership and \$7.00 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 Georgia Trammel, Chairman, 11 N. 2064 Rd, Lecompton, KS 66050

- (      )      \$5.00 Annual Individual Membership
- (      )      \$7.00 Annual Couple's Membership
- (      )      \$50.00 Individual Life or Memorial Membership
- (      )      Friends of The Lecompton Historical Society \$\_\_\_\_\_

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### PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It costs Lecompton Historical Society at least .92 cents for a change of address and the newsletter returned for .78 cent for a postcard to notify us of your change of address, and your newsletter will be thrown away.

If you have moved and do not get your newsletter, this is why.

## Donations to Territorial Capital Museum

1. Photos of the Bald Eagle Rendezvous and two antique, stuffed rag dolls positioned to ride in the museum's sleigh, by Shirley Funk.
2. Enlarged photocopies of \$3 bills printed in Lecompton, Kansas Territory, in 1856, presented by Lecompton Grade School P.T.O.
3. 34 star U.S. flag commemorating Kansas' entry into the Union, by Woodrow W. Ridgway.
4. Church and school papers from Big Springs and family and friends photos, by Marcella Anderson.
5. Photos of the tree planting ceremony commemorating 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kansas Territory, by Darlene Paslay.
6. Autobiography of Major Charles Elmer Hetrick, U.S.A. and many related period photos, by Gilbert Hetrick.
7. Photos of Lakeview Cemetery, by Leon Lewis.
8. Lane University student pictures, by Bob and Mary Lou Morris.
9. 16 photos of Morris family, by Paul Boerger.
10. Selection of Lecompton High School newspapers, by Margaret and Don Fuston.

## Lecompton Historical Society's 2006 Lineup of Programs

Beverly Van Dyke, the LHS program chairperson, has created an intriguing and entertaining list of presenters for the Society's monthly meetings. Each meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month with a covered dish dinner. A short business meeting, primarily concerned with organizing the Society's programs like Territorial Days, The guest presenter usually begins at 7:30 p.m.

**March 9** – Craig Sundell, discussing his collection of Civil War letters

**April 13** – Ron Meyer Band

**May 11** – Photographer Robert E. Bishop

**June 8** – Channel 27 Meteorologist Bruce Jones

**July 13** – Topeka TV personality Sarah Augusthy

**August 10** – Story teller Anole Charity

**September 14** – Washburn University historian Bob Beatty on Kansas' governors

**October 12** – Henrietta Area, on frontier women

**November 9** – Former Gov. Mike Hayden,

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### Lecompton Historical Society

President \*Paul Bahnmaier

Vice President \*Rich McConnell

Secretary \*Vicki Roberts Bahnmaier

Treasurer \*Betty Leslie

Board Members \*Maxine Dark, George Simmons

Keith Noe, Jason Dexter, Duane Wulkuhle, Ron Meier

Curators \*Opal Goodrick, Dorothy Shaner, Ann Dunnaway

George & Arloene Simmons, Darlene Paslay

Membership Ass'ts. \*Sandy Nichols

Bald Eagle Editor \*John Peterson

Mailing Labels \*Sandra Nichols

Program \*Beverly VanDyke

Membership \*Georgia Simmons Trammel

Genealogy & Historical Researcher \*Iona Spencer

Tours \*Charlene Winter

Funding \*Mae Holderman

Illustrator \*Ellen Duncan

Assistant Treasurer \*Sherri Neill

Kitchen \*Helen Hildenbrand & Vicki Lechner

Memorials \*Ruth Ice

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